

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

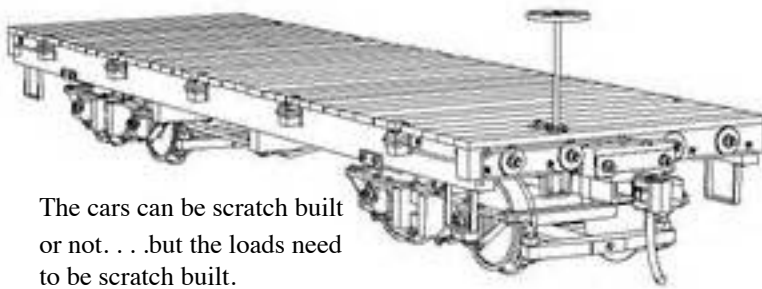
# The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

## Wednesday, February 10th

The SV&W Model Railroading Clinic will meet at the Summer Hill location [165 SW 6th Ave] in Oak Harbor Wednesday, February 10th at 7:00pm for a flatcar contest clinic.

## Flat Car Load Contest

It is time! Jack Tingstad will emcee the clinic where everyone (you are entering, right!?) will present their flat car load for judging. There will be cash prizes for the the top two entries in each category. See page 4 for details.



The cars can be scratch built or not. . . but the loads need to be scratch built.



Open Autoracks are flatcars.



Lumber loads on  
Centerbeams - which  
are officially flatcars.  
By A. Frasch



Bulkhead flatcars work too!



Jack's Nessie  
Photo by Rich T.

Now this is just weird.



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:**

**Feb. 27 - 28, Monroe:** United NorthWest Model Railroad Club is hosting the **24th Annual Model Train Show and Marketplace** to benefit Snohomish County 4-H Foundation. The 2016 Show will be in the same buildings as the 2015 show in the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA.

**May 14: 4th Division Annual Spring Meet.** From Russ Segner, the 4Div Superintendent: "It is scheduled for May 14th with a location to be set soon. There will be eight regular clinics and several special "hands on" clinics. These will be extra fare and led by local MMR members or members with substantial completed AP Certificates."

Our "sister" clinic, the Mount Vernon Model Railroad Clinic, meets every second Thursday at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 1401 Cleveland Street. **February 11th: Nick Muff, MMR, "Modeling the Kansas City Union Station."** Contact Al Carter (360-399-1226 / [tabooma@msn.com](mailto:tabooma@msn.com)) for further information.

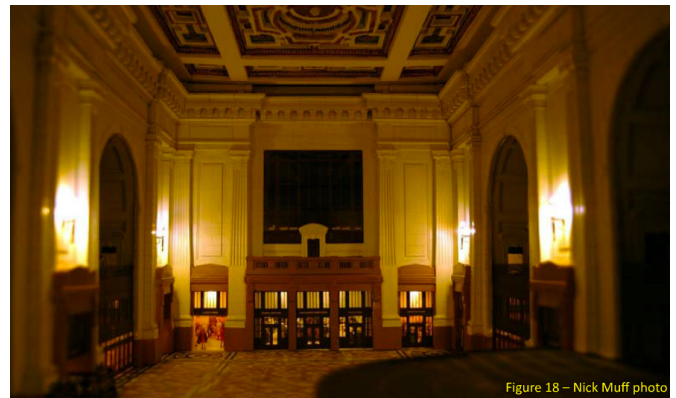


Figure 18 – Nick Muff photo

"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 club use only.

The Link: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sv\\_and\\_w](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.

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I still need more layout pictures from you guys!!

Dick, Rich and I can only fill the pages so many times :-)

So, please let us know how that plastering is going, how that newest building fits on the layout, what you did to make that new 12" tall fir tree, etc.

Send contributions to [afrasch@whidbey.com](mailto:afrasch@whidbey.com) and thanks!

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## Clinic Schedule for 2015/2016

<del>September 9, 2015</del>	<del>The DuPont Dynamite Narrow Gauge Railway Russ Segner</del>
<del>October 14, 2015</del>	<del>Mini Clinics — various presenters</del>
<del>November 11, 2015</del>	<del>Bob Stafford — Bellingham Trainmaster</del>
<del>December 9, 2015</del>	<del>Planning for the Future of Your Railroad After You've Gone Dick Haines</del>
<del>January 13, 2016</del>	<del>Mystery Make 'n Take &amp; Ice Cream! Susan Gonzales</del>
<b>February 10, 2016</b>	<b>Contest/SHOW and tell — FLAT CAR LOADS Jack Tingstad in charge!</b>
March 9, 2016	Good Fences Make Good Layouts Al Frasch
April 13, 2016	Tom Hawkins Open House in Anacortes
May 11, 2016	"The Lost Art of Railroad Hand Signals" Ray Wheeler

***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 silly cartoons from Dick Haines.***



**N o w i s t h e t i m e ! !**

## **Flatcar Load Contest!**

From Jack Tingstad, the contest coordinator  
extraordinaire!



As you no doubt recall, this season we are having a  
"contest" to help you do some imagining and building of  
unique flat car loads.

### **Judging will be in the following categories:**

**Scratch built flat and scratch built load**

**Commercial flat and scratch built load**

**Super detailed commercial flat with super detailed commercial load**

**Humorous scratch built load.**

**And, a "People's Choice" award (with cash if it is not already one of  
the winners). You'll get to vote for your favorite!**

Within these categories you could have long loads, MOW permanent loads, excursion cars  
with loads, circus calliope or other Big Top stuff, or whatever your  
imagination comes up with that would fit into one of the categories.



There will be prize money for "winners" in each of the four categories.

The loads could have some small commercial parts like NBW castings,  
chain, angle iron, or wood bracing etc., but no huge components like  
Chooch load parts (sorry Mike, we love your products, but not this time!).

So this is just a brief reminder to finish up the work  
on your entry. If you haven't started, here are a few  
possibilities: Slabs of marble, ship propellers, junk  
railroad cars or engines, buses, lumber/logs, alien  
space ship, dinosaur in cage, pre-fab track sections,  
military vehicles, pipes, cable reels, and on and on. You  
could Google flat car loads or go to [mrhmag.com](http://mrhmag.com) and  
search "flat car loads." There are dozens of articles in  
past issues to give you ideas. We know you're not like  
school kids and put it off until the night before "it's  
due." So get to it. The judging will be on February  
10th.



# Layout Progress

To “complete” January’s Newsletter, a view of the “final” finished product on the remodel of the Pilchuck Division at the end of the section between Edmonds Intermodal and Mukilteo. The lighting is from using 5M long 12V flexible LED strip lights that have an adhesive backing that allow one to just adhere it to the under side of the level above. If only these were available ten years ago!



**A great video to watch!**

Thanks to Ray Wheeler, a good friend of the clinic and fellow operations fan, for pointing us to this video. I found it at <https://vimeo.com/39829231>

If this doesn't work for you, do a search for "Rotaries Avalanche on the mountain" and you should find it.

Well worth the nearly one-hour run time!!



**Rotaries, Avalanche on the Mountain - Final PBS cut**





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**Website: [www.nmra.org](http://www.nmra.org)**

## Welcome Aboard the NMRA!

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Email:		Occupation:			

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## ***Skagit Valley and Whidbey Clinic January Meeting***

### ***Modeling Rock Details for Structures***

Article and Photos by Rich Thom

In brief opening remarks, Clinic Chair **Rich Blake** reviewed the calendar for upcoming clinics and other PNR events, highlighting the PNR's regional convention, *Selkirk Express 2016*, to be held June 15-19 in scenic Salmon Arm, BC ([www.SelkirkExpress2016.ca](http://www.SelkirkExpress2016.ca)). Rich also mentioned that the Mt. Vernon Clinic has switched its meeting nights to the second Thursday of every month, and encouraged continued cross-attendance. **Jack Tingstad** reminded everyone of next month's contest, in which ***flatcars with loads*** will be displayed and judged (categories and rules have been discussed previously), adding that *cash prizes (!)* (from the attendee kitty) will be awarded, as well as the usual certificates and, naturally, accolades. A show of hands promised a good number of entries.

**Susan Gonzales** launched right into the evening's *make-n-take*, ***Modeling Rock Details for Structures***. It's a simple idea to create details such as chimneys, fireplaces and fire pits, root cellars, fences, even entire houses—and easily achieved, with a steady hand. A very steady hand! To get an idea of what you can build, search “river rock chimney,” for example, to find prototype photos.



Fig 1 – Susan's Rock Chimney, HO-Scale

To get everyone inspired, Susan brought an HO-scale building to which she added a chimney (Fig 1). (This cardboard building resulted from another *make-n-take* project at our clinic a few seasons ago, conducted by Roger Ferris.)

Duly inspired, everyone set about building something, encouraged by Susan (Fig 2). Your Grab Iron reporter has not seen this group as intent—or, fortunately, as quiet—as he did tonight.



Fig 2 – Susan Keeps the Group Busy—Working on Their Own Rock Details

The process is simple: (1) find, wash, and sort your rocks. Susan and husband Phil brought a selection that they collected in the Sierras, Snoqualmie Pass, and on the local beach. Almost anything will work, but if you're a stickler collect rocks from the area you are modeling, so color and composition are prototypical. (2) If you're concerned about microorganisms lurking on your layout, bake the stones on an old cookie sheet for 20 minutes at 250 degrees.



Fig 3 – Selecting Rocks for Your Scale

Step (3) is to check for appropriate sizes for your scale using a scale ruler (Fig 3). Be careful here. Selecting rocks that are too large for your scale—although it makes the project go faster—will result in an unrealistic-looking model, especially noticeable in foreground structures and photographs. A good rule of thumb is to pick only stones that a workman could heft by himself.





Fig 4 – The Gluing Step

Step (4) is to glue the rocks together (Fig 4). Susan recommends Aleene's Fast Grab Tacky Glue (purple label) and that's what the group used tonight. From left to right in Fig 4, Phil Gonzales, Cliff Aaker, Doug Greenfield and Steve Jaffray work on their masterpieces.



Fig 5 – Al Frasch's N-Scale Chimney

In Fig 5, Al Frasch is nearly finished with his chimney—more of a challenge in N ("Normal") scale!



Fig 6 – Adding Mortar is an Optional Step

After letting the whole structure dry, an optional step (5) is to apply mortar. Susan uses (Fig 6) Vallejo brand (Acrylicos Vallejo) Sandy Paste 26.215 (left in Fig 6) or Grey Pumice 26.213 (right). Both are available from Micro-Mark ([www.micromark.com](http://www.micromark.com)).

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