

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

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

Wednesday, October 12th

The second **SV&W Model Railroading Clinic** of the 2016-17 modeling season will meet at the Summer Hill location [165 SW 6th Ave] in Oak Harbor Wednesday, October 12th at 7:00pm for a clinic.

The clinic this month will be a four-part Mini-Clinic event! In no particular order, they will be:

Rich Thom - THROW OUT THE PLASTER--USE RUBBER ROCKS INSTEAD!

Rich'll describe an alternative to the popular cast-plaster rock method, the use of "rubber rocks." These are not molds, but reproductions of actual rock outcroppings in rubber made using a technique similar to that used for making Halloween masks. The pros and cons will be discussed, and the process he uses to place and attach them on the hardshell base, and painting them, will be described. A large mountain will be used for illustration, from start to finish. Some samples will be passed around so attendees can get a closer look at the rubber rock product.



Tom Hawkins - BOTTLE BRUSH TREES



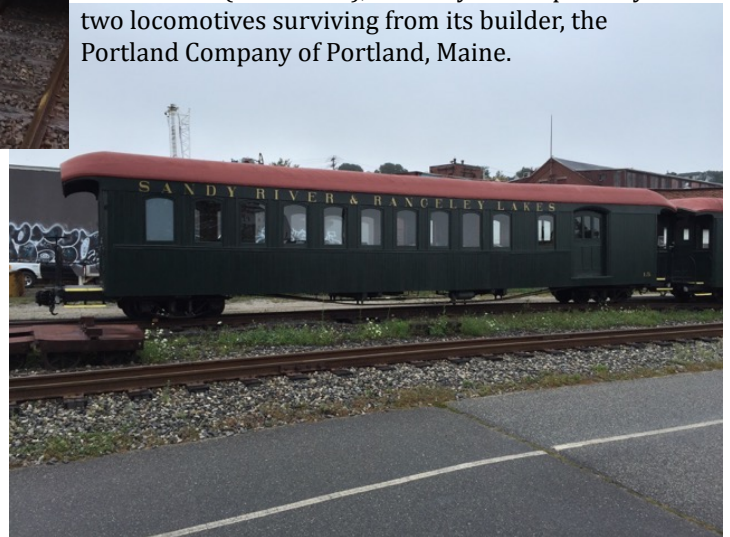
Alan Murray - THE NATIONAL NARROW GAUGE CONVENTION & THE MAINE 2-FOOTERS



Passenger Car at Maine Railroad Museum

Alan Murray will present a slide show as a follow-on to the talk he gave last month about his trip to the 2016 National Narrow Gauge Convention in Augusta, Maine.

Locomotive #9 is the only surviving locomotive from 3 different Maine two foot gauge railroads: the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes (SR&RL), the Kennebec Central (KC), and the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington (WW&F). Additionally, it is the oldest of the surviving Maine Two Footer locomotives (built 1891), and only one of possibly two locomotives surviving from its builder, the Portland Company of Portland, Maine.



Susan Gonzales and crew - MAKING SMALL TREES

Materials:

- *Bamboo skewers found at grocery store like Albertsons. Small ($\frac{1}{8}$ ") wood dowels found at Michaels or Hobby Lobby.
- *Manilla rope. $\frac{3}{8}$ " or larger found at Home Depot.



*Aileens tacky glue.

*Furniture stain. We prefer dark walnut color.

*Coarse turf from Woodland Scenics and others. I prefer dark greens. You should use several different shades of trees mixed together.

*Empty water bottle cut in half.

Tree making steps:

1. Cut the skewers/dowels into a random mixture of lengths and sharpen both ends.
2. Cut the rope into 1.5" lengths.
3. Shred the rope down to individual fibers.
4. Run 3 or 4 vertical stripes of Aileens down the tree trunk. The alteration of glue-wood will give the trunk some texture.
5. Stick the middle of the rope fibers to the glue. Try to use very few fibers at a time but put more on than you think you will want working your way around the trunk in a circle. Make sure the top gets plenty.
6. After the glue hardens dunk the entire tree in the stain.
7. After the stain dries (several hours) you can optionally spray with dullcoat. Now trim the tree to desired shape. Don't be afraid to cut too much off especially near the top.
8. Now take the bottle halves and put some Aileens in the bottom of one and put coarse turf in the other.
9. Roll the tree in the Aileens. Be fairly aggressive with this step as the glue hasn't got much to cling to.
10. Now roll it in the coarse turf.

Ta-da! Trees!

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. Come and meet your fellow model railroaders. San Remo has very good pizza, pasta and Spumoni!

On the calendar:

Oct. 1 and 2: The annual **Lynden Train Show** in Lynden \$7 adult, \$6 Senior see: <http://www.lyndentrainshow.com> for more info.

Oct. 8 and 9, Chehalis: The Lewis County Model Railroad Club's Annual **Fall Model Train Swap Meet and Train Show** is coming up on Saturday 8 October and Sunday 9 October 2016. See http://www.railroad-line.com/discussion/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=47697 for more information.

Oct. 15: Maple Valley Operating Model Train Show 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, \$5. Website: <http://www.greatermaplevalleyareacouncil.org/trainshow.html>

Nov 5-6, Vancouver, BC: Vancouver Train Expo 2016 is the reinvigorated 34th annual train show. Info:- www.vancouvertrainexpo.ca

Saturday, Nov 12th: It's not that long (specially if you are reserving a table) until the annual **BEMRRC Swap Meet**, held this year on Saturday, Nov 12th: <http://4dpr.com/bemrrc-annual-swap-meet-on-saturday-nov-12th/>



Nov and Dec: The Northwest Railway Museum:

Tickets for the **2016 Santa Train** are on sale. Trains will run November 26 & 27, December 3 & 4, December 10 & 11 and December 16 & 17, 2016.

See www.trainmuseum.org for more information.



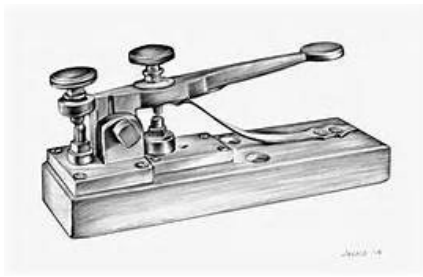
Our "sister" clinic, the Mount Vernon Model Railroad Clinic, meets every second Thursday at the Mount Vernon Senior Center at 1401 Cleveland Street. On October 13th, they will be doing an airbrushing clinic led by our own Rich Blake. Contact Al Carter (360-399-1226 / tabooma@msn.com) for further information.



"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 club use 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

Bring what wish to sell, marked as to price and seller. Set up in the back room by 6:45.



The SV&W Telegraph
From your Clinic Chair,
Rich Blake

Fall is here and railroad season is well underway. Our September event was very successful and was a great way to kick off the season with several swap table items and a nice variety of show and tell subjects. Big Kudos to all that provided show and tell presentations. Also great to see more spouse support with Chris Malmkar and Sue Aaker coming out to support our group. Rich Thom's Grab Iron article details the clinic's events and subjects in case you missed it.

Our October Mini-Clinics are shaping up with four volunteers to make it happen. This is always a favorite event that provides a lot of information in a single clinic meet. Nothing says that we can't do this type of event more than once a season so if there are more ideas or interest we can schedule another one later in the year. For our regular clinics we still have space available for full length clinics for next year. If you have an idea or subject interest, don't be afraid to present a clinic as it is a great way to also learn a great deal more about a subject through preparation for the clinic. We are fortunate to have a great space, several media options, a great knowledge base for support and an attentive audience. Remember that this clinic is ran by us for us, so try being a clinic presenter, you will have plenty of support.

This time of year there are a lot of train shows and conventions happening as outlined here in the newsletter. However, now is also the time to plan for the "big" events coming up in the future. One of those that happen annually is the National Narrow Gauge Convention. This year it was in Maine and Alan Murray will provide a report at the October meet. Next year the NNGC is in Denver, 2018 Minneapolis, 2019 Sacramento. One thing to note about the NNGCs are that they usually have more attendance than the NMRA National Conventions and have in many cases much more modular layouts and dioramas to view with absolutely stunning contest modeling. Lot of clinics to attend and an all around good time. You don't have to be a narrow gauge modeler to attend and is highly recommended to anyone with an interest in fine scale modeling.

The other big convention of interest is the 2022 NMRA National Convention which will be held in the United Kingdom, yes that would be also known as England. This is probably a once in a lifetime event and as we know the British are very much into model railroading arguably more so than their American counterparts. This will be a marquee event and with 5 years to figure out how to plan your vacation it is certainly a possibility for several of us in the 4th Division to participate. For more info see their FB page here: <https://www.facebook.com/NMRA2022/>

On the local front, the Lynden Train and Circus show will be happening over the October 1-2 Weekend. This is a highly attended event by many in our region and hope to see you there. In the mean time happy modeling.

Dispatch Out.
Rich B.

The 2016-2017 Skagit Valley and Whidbey NMRA Clinic Modeling Contest

Our contest this year is all about going tiny! Your challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to build a tiny

diorama no bigger than 24 square inches. This can be achieved in any shape you choose or you can choose to use a pre-cut 4 inch by 6 inch gator board provided by the club. Note: as a circle that would be a 2.75" radius or 5.5" diameter. There is no height limit. Any scale.



Categories will be: **kits, kit-bashed, scratch built and humorous.**

The only rule is that your diorama must tell a story. Whether it is a farm woman feeding her chickens or bums under the train trestle, use your imagination to tell us what it happening.

All around us are individual stories happening every day. Think small but big! Judging in the spring, but get started soon!!

Phil Gonzales has volunteered to be our Diorama Shepard. His email address is: fishnutztoo@frontier.com

Some ideas might be gotten from:
http://modvid.com.au/html/body_worldwide_miniatures.html

Some ideas from miscellaneous sources are scattered about this page.



By Rich Blake

Railway Modeller's Meet of British Columbia

A note from our neighbors to the north - no not Mt Vernon, but Vancouver, BC! Specifically, from Mark Dance, a noted N-scale modeler and author in the model railroad press:

This year, the **Railway Modeller's Meet of British Columbia** (RMMBC) is running concurrently and adjacent to the **Vancouver Train Expo** (VTE) from November 3rd to November 6th, 2016. The



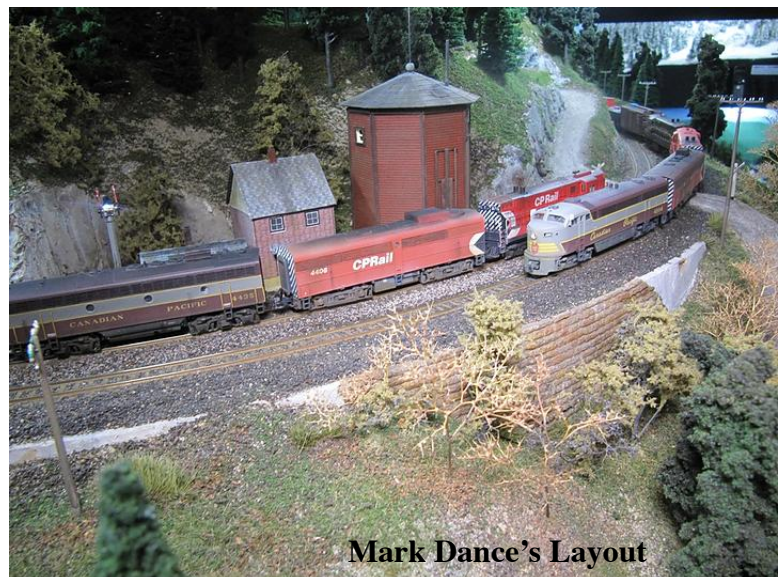
RMMBC will offer attendees a fantastic lineup of prototype and modeling clinics running the gamut from state-of-the-art electronics to scenery, and from locomotive weathering to layout design and construction. The meet will also feature slide shows, model displays, and self-guided layout tours.

Registrants may sign up for operating sessions at one of seven well known Vancouver layouts (but spaces are limited so first come first serve!) Finally, for an additional fee you can attend the Saturday evening banquet to chat with friends about your favorite hobby and be

entertained by a fascinating presentation on the relocation of a Great Model Railway, Dr. Brian Pate's Klondike Mines Railway, 3000 km North to the Yukon!

The RMMBC will take place in the convention facilities of the Atrium Inn (2889 Hastings Street), next door to the PNE and the VTE. Your RMMBC registration gives you entry to both days of the VTE 2016 across the street.

It looks like the 2016 Railway Modeller's Meet will be a fantastic experience for all registrants, with an expanded range of programming to suit almost everyone provided in a comfortable environment. It is an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with fellow model railroaders, learn new skills and take away ideas to help advance your modeling. For registration details please register online at <http://railwaymodellersistmeetofbc.ca/node/10>, or contact the registrar at bcclogg@shaw.ca. We look forward to seeing you!



Mark Dance's Layout

Hey! The NMRA just announced that the NMRA National Convention will, for the first time in over 50 years, be held in England! It will be in the year 2022, so plenty of time to start planning and saving. Birmingham is the host city and is pretty much in the heart of lots of stuff to see.

The British are well known for their fantastic modular sized layouts that they display at numerous Model Railway Exhibitions. I counted 22 such events around England just for the October 8-9, 2016 weekend! They may be small, but usually are very highly detailed, layouts are then transported to exhibitions for presentation. And, Birmingham is only about 90 minutes by train from the heart of London and all it has on offer.

So, join me in making plans to attend the 2022 convention in the UK!



Dubmill Sidings (O gauge) 40' by 3'
Featured in Hornby Magazine, from
Bradford Model Railway Club website



Measuring just 3ft
7in x 1ft 6in, this
compact 'O' gauge
layout represents a
small engine shed
and . . . it features
no points at all.
From the *Great
Electric Train Show*
website.

Don't forget, we are supported by the NMRA and while we do not require membership, it is very strongly recommended. See the NMRA website for more information!



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Skagit Valley and Whidbey Clinic Sept. Meeting
What I Did This Summer

Article by Rich Thom, Photos by Rich Thom & Jon Wilbert

The SV&W NMRA Clinic got off to a great start for the season with 27 hobbyists filling our meeting room at the Oak Harbor Summerhill facility. Clinic Chair **Rich Blake** welcomed guests **Frankie Bott** and **Chris Malmkar** (spouse of new member **Mark Malmkar**) and we hope to see both again at our upcoming clinics this year. Rich reviewed some of the highlights of the short summer break: our annual BBQ hosted by **John Marshall** in Coupeville and op session on John's ever-growing G-scale empire; our private tour of **Nick Muff's** phenomenal layout in Sedro Wooley, organized by **Susan Gonzales**; and last but not least—**Tom Hawkins** earning his NMRA Golden Spike Award for his Port Thomas & Southern HO layout in Anacortes. (See the writeup on Tom's layout in the Grab Iron posted May 2016.) Rich encouraged new people to take up some of the clinic's tasks, one in particular to be responsible for the drinks and snacks, which have been faithfully supplied by **Phil and Susan Gonzales** for several years. Thanks to **Cliff and Sue Aaker** for volunteering to take over this role to prevent our members from starving, although few show any symptoms of it.

The new season's program lineup was discussed, with the popular mini-clinic evening coming up next in October. The idea of another **model contest**—always popular, too—was proposed, with this season's subject being a mini-diorama—a miniature scene in any scale, perhaps no larger than a 4" by 6" file card (precise size TBA)—which tells a story. **Phil Gonzales** stepped up to be this year's Contest Shepherd—thanks, Phil. Judging could be in either February or April, also to be announced.



Fig 1 – A Bigger than Usual Swap Meet—Tom Hawkins, Dick Haines and Curt Johnson (l. to r.) Look Over Offerings

Swap meet items filled three full tables this month in our venue's kitchen (Fig 1) as well as more tables in the main room. We don't know how much sold, but much was on offer. **Jack Tingstad** reminded everyone that a table or two—a group table, perhaps?—at the United Northwest Model Railroad Club's annual train show (www.unwclub.org) in Monroe, February 25-26, 2017 was a great way to find new homes for unwanted items.

The evening moved on to the night's theme: What I did this summer, or just simply **Show and Tell**. **Tom Hawkins** led off by describing a woman in the area who had a large model collection, including not only model railroad items, but also Christmas houses, model airplanes, record collections etc. up for sale. The railway items include mostly older Rivarossi, Mantua, and similar makes both steam and diesel, passenger cars, and Bachmann sets. If anyone is interested, contact Tom (tomhawk1@frontier.com) and he will connect you with the seller.

Rich Thom described his trip to Salmon Arm BC, traveling with fellow clinic member **Jack Tingstad**, for the PNR NMRA regional convention in June. A well-attended meet, Rich found the two days of prototype tours excellent, but the layout tours inconveniently-scheduled (Sunday only, when many participants needed to head for home) and the absence of any operating sessions disappointing. Jack and Rich, though, captured contest awards for cars (Jack, Fig 2) and prototype photos (Rich, Fig 3).



Fig 2 – Jack Tingstad's Hot Sulfur Car Won 2nd-Place—Cars



Fig 3 – Rich Thom's 1st-Place Prototype Color Photo—Last Run of Plow OY over Cumbres

Mark Malmkar showed a concrete pad (Fig 4) which he created in plaster of paris for a new building, and also revealed--our clinic members have multiple talents!--that he is an author of railroad-themed fiction. One recent work, titled "Murder on the Golden State" is available by contacting the author (plm99mfg@gmail.com).



Fig 4—Mark Malmkar Describes his Technique for Creating Concrete

Alan Murray briefly described the National Narrow Gauge Convention that he, along with 13 other PNR members, attended in Maine, which attracted no fewer than 1,360 attendees. Alan will have a fuller report, with photos, at our October meeting.

Finally, **Jon Wilbert** described his “how I spent my summer” project and it was a fine finale for our first meeting.



Fig 5 – Jon Wilbert’s Signal Head

Jon purchased a Safetran CLS-20 Signal Head on-line, completely rebuilt it, and crafted an entirely new mast and base to mount the 3-color signal beside his driveway, welcoming—in a dramatic railroading way—visitors to his and wife Cindy's Langley home. Fig 5 shows the signal head in Jon's garage, ready for dismantling, cleaning and repainting. (Sharp-eyed readers may spot another project in the background. It's a 1924 Ford Model T coupe, which Jon got from his Cindy's father, who had restored it. A little minor engine work and it'll be ready to go. Is there such a thing as too many hobbies?)



Fig 6 – PVC Mast for Signal Head

Next, Jon needed a mast for the signal head, but the prototype part was a cool \$5,000, so some innovation was needed. The solution was a ten-foot length of 3-inch PVC, shown in Fig 6. A collar of larger-diameter PVC (at right in Fig 6) was needed to mate with the signal head. The mast was spray-painted silver to mimic metal.



Fig 7 – Erecting the Signal Mast

Erecting the mast and signal was another challenge. Jon and his son jury-rigged a gin pole (Fig 7) to raise the mast in place so that the concrete footing could be poured.



Fig 8 – The Final Installation

The final installation is shown in Fig 8. Not everyone has a fully-functional 3-color signal in their driveway—a hobby project well-done! Jon joked that maybe a railroad crossing gate—complete with crossbars and flashing lights—was next.

Knowing Jon, he might not have been just kidding around.

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