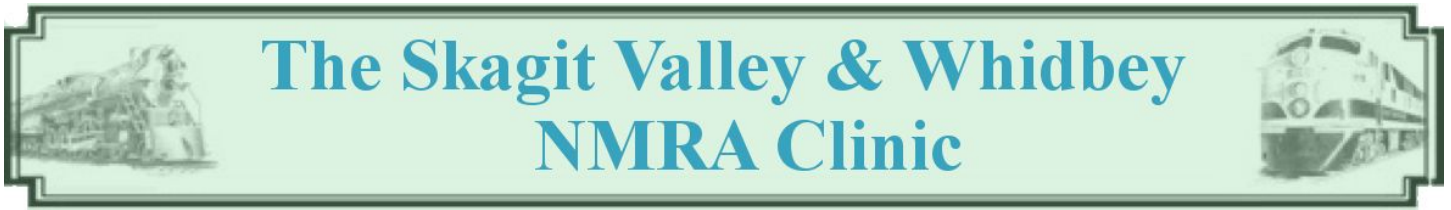


The 4th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the
National Model Railroad Association Presents



February 2018 Newsletter

We will have our sixth clinic of the season at the usual place at the Summer Hill retirement community (at: 165 SW 6th Ave.) 2nd floor meeting room in Oak Harbor on February 14th with a starting time of 7:00pm.

The Pre Clinic Dinner is at Alf's Pizza in Oak Harbor (916 SE Bayshore Drive) no earlier than 5:15pm.

February Regional Calendar

Feb 24th & 25th The 27th annual Washington Model Train Show

Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA. United NorthWest Model Railroad Club is proud to announce its 27th Annual Washington State Model Train Show and Marketplace to benefit [Snohomish County 4-H Foundation](#). More info at <http://www.unwclub.com/unwshow.html>

Mar 3 The 14th Annual Pacific Model Loggers Congress

Camp 18 Restaurant and Logging Museum, 42362 Highway 26, Elsie, Oregon. Info:-
www.pacificmodelloggerscongress.com

Mar 4 The Spring Spokane Train show

The Spokane Fair & Expo Center, Bldg. A, B & C. 404 N Havana St. Free parking.
Info: - <http://www.rivercitymodelers.org/event/model-train-show/>

Next stop for the SV&W Clinic:

February 14, 2018: by Ted Becker. "Potpourri, or Ted's Tub of Tips, Tools Tricks and Techniques" Mostly tools, sources, materials and techniques not originally intended for model railroading that we can use. Emphasis on cheap. There will be a handout with lots of sources and information. Comes with a guarantee you will come away with at least one new idea.



On the horizon:

For February 15th, our sister clinic in **Mt. Vernon** will have a clinic on speeders by Rich Blake.

The Spring 2018 Model Train Show will be held at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center on Sunday, March 4th. The layout is expected to be the biggest ever in the Spokane area and we look forward to your participation.

Railway Modellers
MEET OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

May 4th to May 6th

Registration is now open

[Register](#) today to take advantage of this excellent opportunity to [visit](#) and [operate](#) on some great layouts, [clinics](#) and [model displays](#) and [socialize](#) with your fellow modelers. We look forward to seeing you at the meet at the [Burnaby Campus of Simon Fraser University](#)

The RMMBC Committee

At the January 2018 Clinic

Skagit Valley and Whidbey Clinic January Meeting Working with Stripwood Article and Photos by Rich Thom

Clinic Chair **Rich Blake** welcomed 28 modelers to the first meeting of the new year, including three from our “sister” Mt. Vernon clinic group, and guests **BK and Nancy Blacketter**. Rich along with Program Chair **Susan Gonzales** reviewed some of the plans for the remainder of the season: in March, a program about the Ilwaco Railway and Navigation Company, a 3-foot gauge line that ran for over forty years from the bar of the Columbia River up the Long Beach Peninsula; April, a joint meeting with the Mt. Vernon clinic at their venue; and in May, a tentative field trip to the Lake Whatcom Railway in Wickersham.

The evening's topic was **Working with Stripwood**, and several brought in models either finished or “in progress” and described some of the methods used. We'll show a sampling; your reporter apologizes for not getting photos of them all.



Fig 1 – Alan Murray's Olympia Station



Fig 2 – Olympia Station Interior

Alan Murray kicked off with a powerpoint presentation illustrating some of the techniques he used to create his O-scale Olympia dock and station complex and other structures, which will be used on some of his On30 modules. Alan showed photos of the large dock and brought in several of the buildings (Figs 1 through 4). These are beautifully built as shown by the photos.



Fig 3 – Sheds for Olympia Dock

The buildings in Fig 3 are, on the section of dock, a coal shed for stations (left), and a tool house for speeders and tools (right); another tool house with different wood siding is below. All were built to Northern Pacific Standard Plans, which can be found on the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association website (www.nprha.org/Lists/Structures/Structures2.aspx).

Alan's essential tools for his wood structure work are an 18" band saw, a 12" portable planer, and a 10" cabinet saw. For all dimensions 1/8" (6" in O-scale) or greater, rather than purchasing commercial stripwood, he uses the band saw and planer to mill his own lumber. He obtains large pieces of basswood at Martin Lumber in Everett, but any lumber store that specializes in hardwoods may stock it. The cabinet saw, with a 96-tooth, 10" carbide blade, is used for cutoff work.

Alan uses Gator-Board for strong and flat bases for many of his structures. He uses exclusively, for all wood-to-wood bonds, Aleene's Tacky Glue (golden-brown bottle) applied with an application syringe to avoid visible glue lines. He finds Aleene's glue extremely strong and easy to use (it's also non-toxic unlike some other wood model glues). Alan also uses many custom jigs, and showed some examples. (**John White** later in the evening also showed some of his custom jigs for trestle bents and retaining walls.) For staining wood, Alan uses a pre-stain sealer followed by Builders-in-Scale stains (www.builders-in-scale.com).

Another structure which Alan brought in to display is the fuel oil tank in Fig 4. This used bents of 1/4" dowel and is complete with NBW details. Alan didn't want too large a tank, and found just what he wanted at a train show, an S-scale tank car which did the trick.



Fig 4 – Alan's Fuel Oil Tank



Fig 5 Structures by Phil and Susan Gonzales

Fig 5 shows HO-scale structures brought in by **Phil and Susan Gonzales**. Phil built the double covered water tank, a Muir Models kit which models the twin water tank which stood at the town of Bagby on the Yosemite Valley Railroad. It's "straight out of the box" except Phil used Campbell shingles for the roof. The fine model was stained with Floquil pine stain, and weathered with a thin wash of grey craft acrylic paint. Susan described with good humor her "initiation" to building with stripwood, when, opening her first craftsman kit, discovered just a box of sticks. It was a JV Models kit called the Boyd Logging Camp. She built the three camp buildings shown, but never finished the rest!



Fig 6 – BK Blacketter Describes His Swing Bridge

BK and Nancy Blacketter made the not inconsiderable journey from Bellingham—and we’re glad they did!— to update the group on BK’s approximately 20’ x 20’ On30 layout, which models the White Pass & Yukon RR from Skagway to White Horse. BK brought with him his scratchbuilt swing bridge model (Figs 6 and 7).



Fig 7 – Another View of Swing Bridge

Specifically it’s a model of the Carcross, Yukon Territory, Swing Bridge. The bridge was built to let steamers out of Lake Bennett, but ironically it was only “opened” a few times; in a 1998 restoration the swing mechanism and no-longer-needed supports and pilings were removed, so it swings no more. However, this truss bridge still handles WP&YR excursion traffic and pedestrians. BK’s model does indeed swing on his layout. He drew his own drawings of the bridge. The hardest part, BK said, was the cabling on top (visible in Fig 6); string and thread

sagged, and he finally settled on stainless steel leader wire for fishing, which worked well, but was tricky to paint. The wood beams of the truss and deck were weathered with an india ink wash.



Fig 8 – Al Carter's Marshall's Gas Dock

Al Carter described his “Marshall's Gas Dock” (Fig 8), a FOS Scale Models kit. This nicely-built HO-scale structure was “stained” entirely with Prismacolor Premier Art Markers, twin-tipped, artist-quality markers available in 200 colors (www.prismacolor.com/markers), which can be found at Michael's, Dick Blick and other suppliers. The roof is the new Northeastern Scale Lumber corrugated “metal” roofing material, which is actually an embossed paper product. The barnacles are fine black and white ballast and find green ground foam, plus a wash of AK Interactive's “green slime.” On the topic of using markers for coloring stripwood and siding, **Ted Becker** brought in a Western Scale Models “Blacksmith Shop” for which he used Windsor and Newton ProMarkers, another brand of twin-tipped markers sold by Michael's and others. Both of these brands of markers have a broad chisel nib and a fine bullet nib. **Mark Malmkar** has successfully used stain markers found at Home Depot, dark walnut and pickled oak for example, and (if you can find them) Floquil pens in grime, earth and mud colors.



Fig 9 – Rich Blake’s Sandhouse

Rich Blake discussed some methods he used to scratchbuild the O-scale small sandhouse shown in Fig 9. He described what he called a “dynamic jig,” as contrasted to the custom jigs shown earlier by Alan Murray and John White. Rich uses a piece of foamboard with a sheet of quadrille (or similar) paper and wax paper layered on it, and pins for positioning the stripwood pieces to be glued: simple and effective. The flaked paint on the sandhouse is nicely done. There are several ways to achieve this appearance. Rich’s method: (1) seal the wood; (2) paint with turpentine and let dry; (3) apply the acrylic paint in the desired color and let dry; and (4) press masking paint over the surface and peel up. The tape will rip pieces of the acrylic up to produce the effect shown.

Many small-group discussions after the presentations on other methods and materials used underscored how much everyone enjoyed, and learned from, tonight’s topic.

Al Carter’s follow-up on Stripwood Clinic

I purchased Prismacolor Premier Double Ended Brush Markers at Dick Blick, which is an on-line store for art and craft supplies. The price on line was almost half of what the retail price is. I did find them locally at Hobby Lobby in Mount Vernon, although that store didn't carry the entire line of available colors.

There was some confusion about the markers - people were asking how I arrived at "40% Cool Grey" or 70% Warm Grey", etc. My bad - I didn't explain that sufficiently. I did not do anything to arrive at those dilutions - they come that way. That is, most greys (Cool, Warm, French, Neutral) come in strength ranges from 10% to 90%. And some other colors, like Umbers have some dilutions available.

What that means is, the "strength" of the tint of a particular color. In other words, a 20% strength of Warm Grey is much lighter than, say, 70% strength.

If you go to Dick Blick's website (www.dickblick.com) and type in Prismacolor Markers, and then scroll down past the sets of markers, you will find a color chart of all the colors. Note that the price listed (as of today, anyway) is \$3.25 each, which is cheaper than I thought.

Note also that there are other brands available out there: Touch (available at Tri-Dee Arts), and Pro Marker (Ted Becker found those at a Hobby Lobby near him in Snohomish County). I have no experience with them, although I did find a Windsor & Newton brush marker (Van Dyke Brown) in my wanderings someplace (can't remember where) and it produced a nice dark brown (think new railroad ties).

For you "old timers" that remember Floquil's ubiquitous Driftwood Stain, (the "ultimate" light wood stain used by craftsman modelers for structure building which was discontinued several years ago and resulted in skyrocketing prices on Ebay), Prismacolor makes a Driftwood color.

Any questions, e-mail me at tabooma@msn.com

Modelers Corner.

This project is proposed by **Dick Haines**. You might recognize the old Skykomish hotel in the background. A good place to get inspired as they have various railroad artifacts and a live steam railroad there.



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 <https://www.nmra.org/> for more information!



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