

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

The Skagit Valley & Whidbey NMRA Clinic

April 2021 Newsletter

Due to the quarantine the April (in person) clinic is **CANCELLED**. Even our pre clinic dinner would be inappropriate at this time.

Regional Calendar

Railroad Days in Ilwaco is on the schedule for July 17 and 18, 2021.

Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum 115 Lake St SE, Ilwaco, WA

Yes this is a traditional public model railroad event

The April clinic.

Unusual and Inexpensive Flat Car Loads for Thrifty Model Railroaders



Our presentation will be provided by Susan Gonzales on “Making your own flatcar loads”

This presentation will cover a variety of interesting flat car loads that can be made from products easily obtained at the dollar store, Walmart and Amazon. As the price of purchased flat car loads has increased steadily over the past few years, I began researching what could be made at home. In doing the research I found some highly interesting and entertaining flat car loads. In particular, the Army and NASA seemed to have the same philosophy as the Priority Mail in that “if it fits, it ships”. Included in the presentation will be instructions on how to make your very own UFO which I built for a flat car load contest within our club. Hope to see you all on Zoom!

At the March Clinic We had our sixth online Zoom clinic presented by Mark Clemmens.

THE RAILROAD THAT RAN BY THE TIDES

Mark Clemmens gave us a fascinating presentation on the narrow gauge Ilwaco Railroad and Navigation Company that operated on the North Beach Peninsula from 1888 to 1930.



Thanks Mark!



Mark admires one of Rich Blake's ON30 modules at the Puyallup show.

Upcoming 2021 clinics!

Apr 14, 2021 Susan Gonzales - Flatcar Loads
May 12, 2021

CHAIRMAN'S CLINIC NEWS

on the Zoom front, I had mentioned in a recent newsletter that I set up a recurring clinic link that would have the same meeting ID and passcode every month. Due to security reasons, this function has been abandoned and deleted. Future meetings will have a new ID and passcode every time to avoid any potential issues from outsiders. The links/ID/passcode will be posted in the [Grab Iron](#) on the Monday. before the meeting, I will also send out an email with the same information.
Hoping everyone had a safe and happy New Year.

You may also notice here that there are no subjects listed after March, *why is that?* Because I need **VOLUNTEERS** to step up and do some clinics. Same as in-person meetings, using Zoom is simple and effective with your typical presentation methods – speaking and pictures. Powerpoints are preferred but a group of pictures that can be talked to are fine also.
Here are a few scenarios to consider for online clinics:

1> Clinician makes powerpoint and shares screen in zoom while presenting (this is the preferred normal method). People can ask questions via “chat” and can be answered after clinic slides or active participation with zoom host allowing “unmute”

2> Clinician makes powerpoint as usual but is not zoom knowledgeable. Send powerpoint to Clinic host. Host shares screen in zoom while clinician talks. Same could be done with layout tour and static pictures.

3> Clinician creates notes and photos to support a clinic but does not have powerpoint skills. Send materials to MS Office savvy person and compile powerpoint. Present as per 1 or 2 above.
Live clinic. This can be done using a cell phone, tablet or webcam connected via zoom.

4> Clinician does clinic live by showing work/layout and describing activity live streaming. Requires some knowledge on media/technology use. Maybe some other items such as tripods or stands. Live clinic could also be chalk talks with camera focused on person talking and dry erase board/flip chart/chalk board, etc. More difficult but certainly entertaining and doable in zoom.

I will be the “host” for all clinics. Clinicians will be designated “Co-Hosts” through Zoom in order for them to share screen and take control of meeting. You don’t have to know what you are doing other than starting the zoom meeting on your computer/device to participate or be a clinician, I will walk you through it ahead of time. It is really easy.

Please contact us if you have questions or have ideas. We need to populate the calendar ASAP.

Rich Blake – slugsmasher@oakharbor.net
Susan Gonzales - fishnutztoo@frontier.com
Cliff Aaker – cliff@aaker.net

Our Whidbey & Skagit clinic is part of an online discussion group at
PNWRRModelers@groups.io

If you aren't already subscribed do so by sending an email to the above link.

4TH DIVISION ZOOM LAYOUT TOURS

You can expect a regular layout tour the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. The Zoom link will be posted on the [Grab Iron](#).

4dptr.com

One of the best clinic options is the Zoom meetings put on by the NMRA [4th division](#).

The 4th division also provide a youtube archive of past Layout tours and clinic videos you can access at www.youtube.com/c/4dptrMovies

You can also visit the NMRA youtube channel
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHw-7-1FWB5zQgTM0ZVY-Yw>

Archives of the NMRA newsletter maintained by editor Greg Kujawa are also available. View the August issue ptr.nmra.org/switchlist

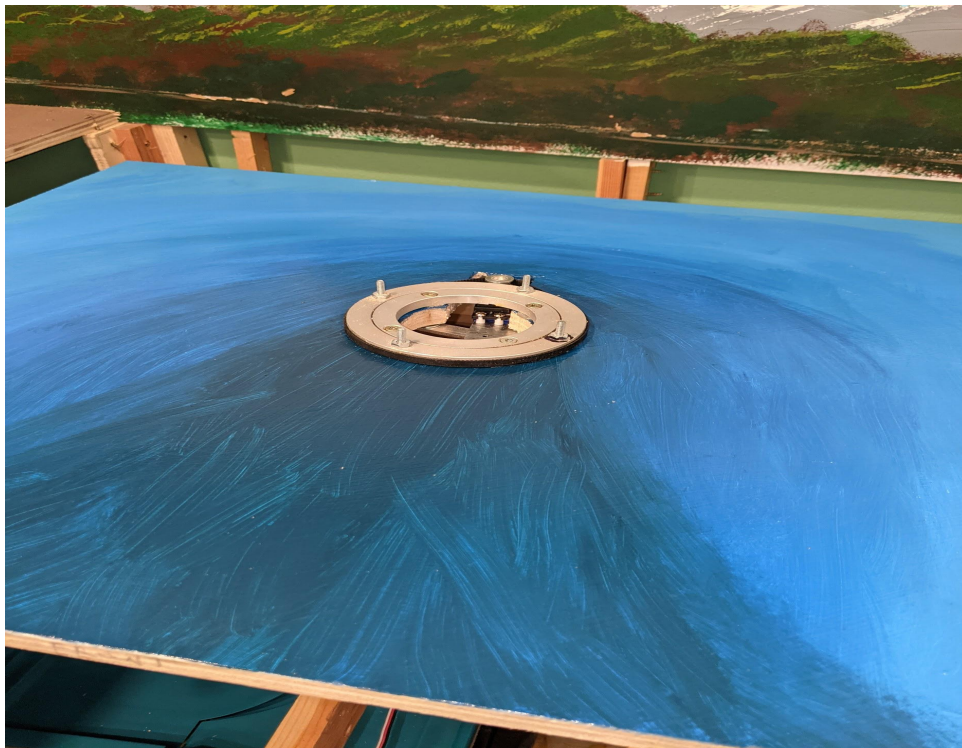
Down the line:

No progress has been made on finding a new venue for our clinics. Until the quarantine appears to be coming to an end we will pursue the Zoom option.

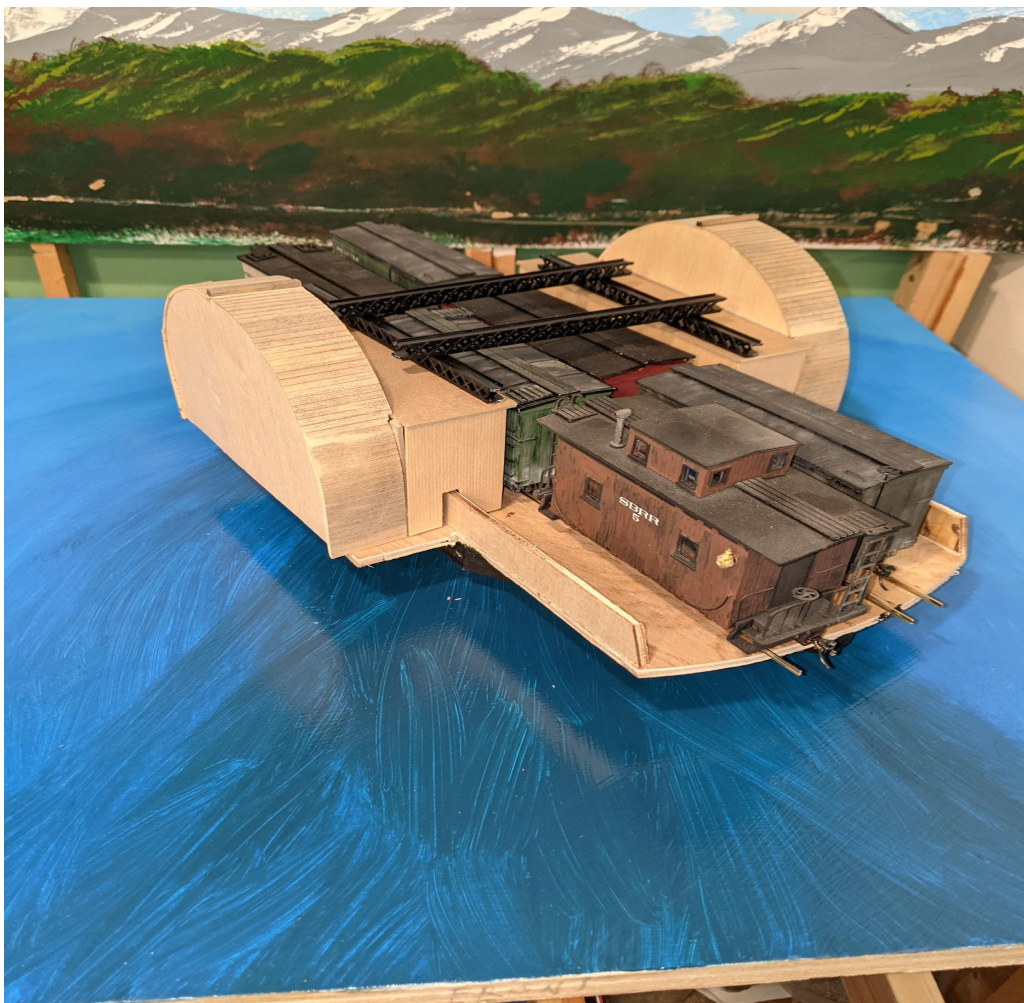
Layout Progress

From your editor's layout.

At one end of my end to end layout there is a connection to a foreign road across the water. A car ferry seemed like the solution.



The ferry is basically a turntable controlled by this mechanism.



The ferry is a work in progress. If I want 6 cars on it they can only be 18 footers.

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