



Clinic Report, September 19, 2022

First Clinic Since Covid: For the first time since early 2020, we were able to host an in-person clinic at our usual location, the Mount Vernon WA Senior Center, but in a new, much larger room. Much less crowded – room to move around! I think I counted 18 in attendance. Joining in the fun and camaraderie were several folks from our “sister clinic” in Oak Harbor, as Al Frasch so aptly labeled the two clinics. The Oak Harbor group is without a meeting space, so we are sort of co-hosting, for the time being. Although, reports Oak Harbor Chairperson **Rich Blake**, they will continue to hold Zoom clinics every other month. Good to have us all together!

Program: The theme for this first clinic of the season was “what did you build/do with model railroading during the Covid shutdown?” Several attendees including **Mark Malmkar**, **John O’Connell**, **Rich Thom** and I brought thumb drives and we shared photos of our projects. Thanks to **Cliff Aaker** and **Rich Blake** who provided the Oak Harbor clinic’s projector, as the Mount Vernon Clinic’s projector wasn’t available. Great photo tour by these folks, and we didn’t even get to see what **Don Jones** and **Dale Bearden** brought to share. Next month!

Photos: Photos? You want photos? Yeah, me too, but I, being a bit rusty from this two plus year layoff, forgot to take any photos. That’s my excuse and I’m sticking to it. I’ll try to remember to do it next month. Remind me! I need reminding! Just ask my wife...

Display Models: And I forgot to acknowledge **Mark Malmkar** and **Bob Stafford** who brought some great looking models for show-and-tell. Sorry, guys, I’ll try to do better (see previous paragraph).

Master Model Railroader (MMR): In August of 2021, our own **Dale Bearden** was awarded Master Model Railroader #690 by the NMRA. This is a significant achievement on Dale’s part. He joins **Mark Malmkar**, **Jack Tingstad** and **Nick Muff** as the only MMRs in the Island/Skagit/Whatcom Region. Dale earned AP Certificates in the following categories: Model Railroad Engineer (Electrical); Master Builder Motive Power; Master Builder Cars; Master Builder Structures; Model Railroad Engineer (Civil); Master Builder Prototype Models; and Author. Congratulations, Dale!!!

Sales/Give Away Table: Thanks to **Nick Muff** who sent two boxes of goodies for the “freebie” table, and several folks brought items to sell. I noticed some cash changing hands, so I think there were at least some sales. Keep bringing your excess items – you never know who might need them!

Illnesses: You might wonder why I am filling in as Clinic Chairperson. Well, **Ted Becker** is seriously ill with Myasthenia Gravis, and has been hospitalized now for over 4 weeks. He is making slight progress in recovering but has a long road to returning to a somewhat normal lifestyle. And **Nick Muff** is suffering

from an unknown illness, although he suspects it is Long Covid. If you are a person that believes and prays to a higher being, you might want to add both Ted and Nick to your prayers.

Next Clinic: We will take some time to finish our September contributions, then the balance of the time will be spent on “Mini Clinics” (see below). Do you have a mini clinic to offer? Contact me!

Hungry? Join us in a pre-clinic bite to eat at 5:00pm at **Round Table Pizza**, 115 E. College Way, M.V.

Future Clinics: Both **Mark Malmkar** (“*Seasonal Changes on Your Layout*”) and **Dale Bearden** (“*The Monson Railroad*”) have volunteered to present clinics in the near future. Also, **Bob Stafford** will present a clinic on BNSF’s Delta Yard in Everett. Final schedule TBD.

Mini-Clinics: One of Ted’s favorite clinic programs is “Mini Clinics”. This is where several people can present a “mini clinic” – just a short, 5 or 10 minutes on a subject. Start thinking about how you can contribute to this idea, as we will have our first “Mini Clinics” next month.

Sponsorship: The Mount Vernon NMRA clinic is one of several clinics sponsored by the Fourth Division, Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. We meet on the 3rd Monday at 7:00 pm at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Street. Membership in the NMRA is **NOT** required to attend our clinic, but it is encouraged. For more info on joining the NMRA, see: www.nmra.org/membership. Or see **Al Carter** for a membership application. Remember, if you are unsure, there is a one-time 9 month Rail Pass trial membership for only \$19.95.

Building Access: Please remember to use the rear door (up the ramp off the parking lot). For security reasons, the door cannot be propped open and must remain closed and locked.

Contact Info: Temporary Clinic Chairperson is **Al Carter** (tabooma@msn.com). Name badge maker/keeper and roster manager is **Tom Buckingham** (tom@401kplanninggroup.com). Refreshment provider is **Dave Falconer** (dsfalconer@aol.com). Newsletter writer/editor/publisher/photographer and general all around behind-the-scenes guy is **Al Carter** (tabooma@msn.com).

Coming Down the Track:

Oct 1,2	Lynden	Lynden Lions Train Show/Swap Meet
October 17	Mount Vernon	Clinic: Mini Clinics; Photos
Nov 12	Kent	Boeing Employees Model RR Club Swap Meet
Nov 21	Mount Vernon	Clinic:
Dec 19	Mount Vernon	Clinic:
Feb 25/26	Monroe	United NW Model RR Club Show/Swap Meet
May 19-14	Tacoma	PNR Convention
Aug 21-26	Dallas, Tx	NMRA National Convention

Participate! The clinics are only as good as the attendees make it, so please bring your models, photos, tools, whatever, to share with all of us.

Photos, take 2: (Get it? Photos... Take 2... Bada Bing, Bada Bang...).

Anyway, just to add a bit of pizzazz to the newsletter, here are a couple of photos of my workbench – “before, after,” and then, “really after.” Background: I dismantled my Tabooma County Rwy layout (gasp!) and am rebuilding with an Alaska Railroad theme. Long story there, for another time. But this also involved moving my workbench to another corner of the room. See below:

Before:



The old workbench was made of 3 hollow core door pieces, cobbled together. Not an inviting place to spend time. BTW, notice the hole in the wall? That's the entrance to my staging yard.

The new workbench is a solid piece of nice $\frac{3}{4}$ " plywood, with added (strip LED) lighting under the shelf above the bench, which contains part of my around-the-room loop.

It didn't take long to trash it up! There are still a few square inches of work surface, though. I'll just keep pushing the pile back to make room... Sound familiar?

After:



Really After:



Photos, take 3: Rick Troyer, the leader of the Camano Island Model RR Club, couldn't make the clinic, but here are some photos of his layout, which is housed in a very, very clean part of his garage. HO scale, DC controlled and lots of details and vehicles (you know how I like vehicles).





And that is....

