

THE FLIMSY BOARD

Train No. 1 Vol. 48

<http://www.bnmrr.org>

Issue: January 2023



BNMR is a 100% NMRA
Member Club

Watch your email and
the website for news and
updates about meetings,
clinics, and clubhouse
status.



*Club's Lionel trains under the Christmas Tree display - "The Stuff that Dreams are Made Of..."
(With apologies to Sam Spade)*

CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

Dates and times are subject to change — consult the website for updates.

JANUARY

- 7th..... Breakfast social meeting at All Star Lanes, 8:30 am.
- 7th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 12th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 14th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 19th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 21st Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 26th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 26th..... Board meeting, 6pm in the clubhouse.
- 28th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

FEBRUARY

- 2nd Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 2nd Business Meeting, 6pm in the clubhouse.
- 4th..... Breakfast social meeting at All Star Lanes, 8:30 am.
- 4th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

THE FLIMSY BOARD

Official Publication of the Bremerton Northern Model Railroad, Inc

The club is incorporated in the State of Washington as a non-profit and is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(7) social club. We are a 100% National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) membership club.

FLIMSY BOARD STAFF:

Editor: Bert Cripe
Submit Contributions to: bert@wavecable.com

Submittal deadline is the 30th of the month, publication date is the weekend after the business meeting.
Copyright 2023 BNMR, Inc.

Unless otherwise noted photos are by the Editor.

MEETINGS NOTICE:

Business meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month in the clubhouse. Board meetings are held periodically in the clubhouse on the last Thursday of the month. The January meeting is our annual dinner meeting held at a local restaurant.

OFFICERS:

President:..... Bill Hupé
Vice President: John Forsythe
Secretary:..... Trish Williams
Treasurer: Wes Stevens
Sergeant-at-Arms: Jerry Enders
Directors: Ray Hagele, Dave Woodard,
..... Pete Bieber, Mark Stephens
Librarian: Tom Barrett
Web Site: <http://www.bnmrr.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1988490354736510/>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Clubhouse Calendar	1
From the President's Desk	3
N Scale Division Report	3
AP Certificates Earned.....	3
Grooming Atlas Locomotives.....	5
Upcoming Regional Events	6
New Member Report.....	6

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings all,

This is my first memo. I want to thank Bruce and BOD for all their hard work in the past. We have come a long way. I am going to make a few changes. The BOD will only meet once a quarter. I will call a special meeting if I feel it is necessary. Business Meeting will also go to quarterly. However, the 2nd and 3rd month there will be work party/operations gatherings. This will provide opportunities to learn.

My goals this year include changing our IRS tax status; locking down a long-term lease for our space; rewriting the By Laws, making them less complex; and getting the switching layout up and operating. Any help doing these items will be much appreciated.

....Bill



Prototype photo by Russell West

CLUB MEMBERS EARN AP CERTIFICATE

Congratulations to these members for earning an Achievement Program Association Volunteer Certificate:

Leonard Cope, John Forsythe, Rick Snyder, Peter Solotruk, and Wes Stevens

N SCALE DIVISION REPORT

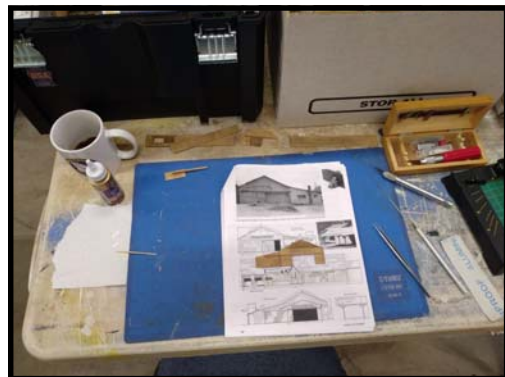
Much progress was made during 2022 on our modular layout and while there are still many tasks to complete in the coming year, we have the ability to operate trains in a purposeful manner not just running in circles during open houses.

I would suggest you try some switching operations on the Blue line. Make up a short train 6 to 8 cars in the classification yard. Take the train out on the Blue line and spot or pickup a few cars at some of the sidings on your trip to the South Fiddle yard. Manually turn the train to return to the classification yard. Practice uncoupling cars using the small dental brushes.

You might just find you enjoy that type of work. I am more than willing to act as your conductor on a run that this, just say the word.

We have been holding work nights at Jack's RV Barn and those will continue beginning Wednesday, January 11th. Below are a few photos:

While the snow in December caused us to miss a couple of work nights, progress has been made on the scratch built



(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

structures we are making for the Fartheron module.

Looking ahead we have much planning and then work to do on our new travelling layout. The intent is to develop a track plan, set some standards using the best parts of the NTRAK and Free-moN standards, followed by modifying the sections of a layout we salvaged last year.

The new layout will be much easier to setup and take down than our current NTRAK. It will have a coordinated look with scenery and industries that are planned from the start.

Twenty-Three marks the 50th year of NTRAK modular railroading. Here are excerpts from the January-February NRail Newsletter:

Today is the start of Fifty: 50 years, that is, the yearlong celebration of what started in 1973. While most will remember it as the 50th anniversary of NTRAK it is much more.

It was the start of modular model railroading as we know it today in all scales, not just N-Scale — modular model railroading with standard interfaces such that any module constructed to those standards anywhere in the world can be joined together into a layout.

It was the start of N-Scale standards, which we called NTRAK at the time, but which now includes T-TRAK and Free-moN.

While no one has an accurate count of NTRAK modules constructed over those 50 years, my guess is somewhere north of 7,000.

As part of our celebration of “50” NRail is offering membership at half price (\$5.00) to any new members who join in 2023.

John Wallis, NRail President

The New NRail Forum

“As part of our celebration of 50 Years of N-Scale modular railroading, NRail is adding an exciting new feature to our website: the NRail Forum at NRail.org/forum. Anyone can access the NRail Forum and read the postings there. But if you want to post a question or reply to a post you must log on – which means you must be an NRail member. This is to ensure that questions and responses are serious and meaningful.

Our website, nrail.org has a number of features for members, starting with the latest NRail Newsletter, along with copies of all newsletters since the first one in 1976, the Tips and Techniques section that now includes copies of ZoomTRAK slides and more.

Bruce Alcock, NRail Webmaster

As we begin 2023 I hope we can focus on more meaningful running on the NTRAK layout, identifying and fixing items needing work, and fun running trains.

...BC



Prototype photo by Russell West

TROUBLE WITH ATLAS LOCOMOTIVES OR HOW I DEALT WITH CABIN FEVER WHILE SNOWED IN

I have three Atlas GP-9 locomotives. Two are older, from the 1990s while the third is a new unit supplied with a decoder from the factory.

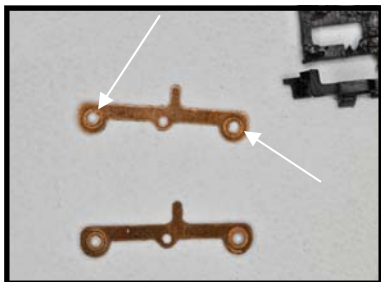
The new unit ran fine 'back and forth' under DCC power when I purchased it at Pacific Rim Hobbies. (Refer to the October 2022 *Flimsy*.)

I installed a TCS CN-GP decoder in one of the older units, programmed it, and found it a very poor runner.

The new locomotive didn't run very well either on curves. I was beginning to have second thoughts about Atlas locomotives and so I put both units aside until I could find the time to investigate.

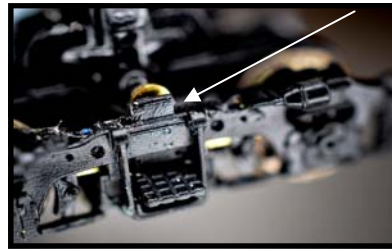
The recent snow provided the stay-at-home time to pursue the issues. The first step was disassembly. While the trucks were removed, I attached jumpers from the test track to the motor pickup contacts. The motors ran smooth and quite. The lights responded to changes in direction, so the running issues pointed to the trucks.

With the trucks removed, I checked for binding in the gearing, finding none I removed the axles. I inspected for excessive lubrication and foreign material – results were good. Next item to check was the wheel gauge. Three axles on both of the units were too tight! The wheels were adjusted and appeared clean, but a good cleaning with mineral spirits was given to make sure. The truck-to-axle contacts were cleaned and a VERY fine application of NO-OX ID was applied to wheels and electrical contact areas.



I reassembled the trucks and installed them into the frames.

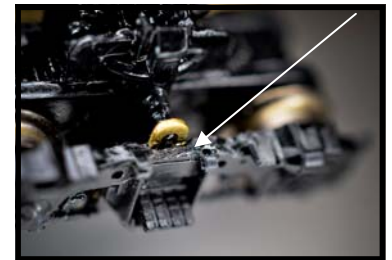
There was no change in performance, in fact both ran worse than to begin with! Wearing an OptiVISOR, I began a close inspection of the trucks to see how they rotated in the frame. I



I found binding when swiveling on both locomotives. It appeared the flexible frame contacts were misshaped and

sliding off the truck's contacts and engaging with the little tab that is sticking up next to those truck contacts.

I removed the trucks again. I reshaped the frame mounted contacts to what I thought was a better shape that provided better contact with the truck's contact and away from the truck frame.



Using a #11 blade I sliced off the little tab on the side frame. I burnished the frame mounted and truck mounted contacts, then applied a very small amount of NO-OX ID to both. After carefully reattaching the trucks, I test ran the locos on the test track. To my great surprise and relief they both run very well!

Programming came next. I ran the locos, on the test loop for about an hour in each direction, to warm them up and ensure the mechanisms were broken in. Review of the decoders' settings came next. I set top speed to about 50 SMPH, mid-throttle to about 30 SMPH and the starting throttle step at 3. The results are amazing when compared to how they ran 'out of the box'! The real test will be given when they pull cars around the layout at the clubhouse.

....BC

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

Visit the club website for updates: <http://www.bnmrr.org/upcoming.html>

Great Train Show/World's Greatest Hobby on Tour

January 14 & 15

Clark County Events Center, Ridgefield, WA

Website: www.trainshow.com/

January 21 & 22

Washington State Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA

Website: www.trainshow.com/

Elma Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show

February 18 (10 to 4pm) & 19 (10 to 3pm)

Food concession and operating layouts

Admission: \$5.00

Grays Harbor County Fair, Elma, WA

Contact: Tim Daubert at 360-580-9372



Prototype photo by Russell West

United Northwest Model Railroad Club Show and Swap Meet

February 25 & 26

Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe WA

Website: www.facebook.com/groups/135356321819

Willamette Model RR Club Annual Swap Meet.

March 11

Kliever Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Drive, Portland, OR

Info: wmrrc.com

Pacific Model Loggers' Congress

March 11

Camp 18 Restaurant and Logging Museum,
Milepost 18, 42362 Highway 26, Elsie, OR

Info: pacificmodelloggerscongress.org/



NEW MEMBER REPORT

Welcome to December's new member:

Mike Johnson, an HO modeler whose
interest is transition era Union Pacific