



## Clinic Report, January 16, 2023

**Mother Nature Cooperated** this month (December's clinic was cancelled), and twenty-one folks showed up for the January 2023 Mount Vernon Model RR Clinic, including first timers **Roger Weiss** of Bellingham, an N scale modeler, and **Verna McLeod** of Sedro Woolley, who is a beginner in HO scale. Welcome, Roger and Verna! Six showed up at Round Table Pizza for a bite to eat beforehand. Thanks to **Dave Falconer** for bringing cookies and beverages!

**Illness Update:** Glad to report that **Nick Muff** says he is "almost back to normal" and hopes to be joining us again in February. **Ted Becker** is still hospitalized and has been moved to The Everett Center. Slow but sure progress! Ted would appreciate emails: [rail.bird@att.net](mailto:rail.bird@att.net)

**Important!** Did that get your attention? Good. As I reported at the clinic, it is important to check your email prior to leaving for each month's clinic. In the event of bad weather or other emergencies, I will send out an alert via email. I'll try to do this prior to 3:00 pm on clinic day.

**Next Month:** Bob Stafford, retired BNSF Trainmaster, will talk about BNSF's two yards in Everett. Why two yards? Come to the clinic and find out!

**Build A Structure:** The clinic's "group project" for the next few months is "structures", in an effort to get more people involved. The idea is to build a structure (any type, any scale, any medium) and can be scratchbuilt, kit built, or kitbashed. Bring it to the clinic in the coming months, *including while the build is in progress*. This can be a structure you have already started, or a new one, but the idea is to build (or complete) a structure to share with the group. This is a great opportunity to grab one of those unbuilt, "shelf orphan" kits and get to it!

**Skagit/Whidbey Clinic:** Our friends from our "sister clinic" over in Oak Harbor are currently holding Zoom clinics, as they do not have a meeting room currently. You can find out more by emailing Cliff Aaker at [4dclinic@whidbey.com](mailto:4dclinic@whidbey.com) to be put on his mailing list, which he sends out to notify people of an upcoming clinic. Or, you can always watch for an announcement in the 4D's Grab Iron, which you can sign up for (you do not have to be an NMRA member to sign up for the Grab Iron). Go to: [4dpnr.com/grabiron](http://4dpnr.com/grabiron), and while you are there, check out the rest of the 4d's website.

## Tool Time:

**Jim Betz** (welcome back, Jim!) told us that he is super happy with his **Iso Tip 8000** cordless soldering iron and finds he can easily use it to solder feeders to track, etc. Available on Amazon.



**Al Carter** showed a nifty brush cleaning tool that does an amazing job cleaning paint brushes. It has a suction cup on the bottom and is designed to be attached to the bottom of a container of soapy water. Some brands can also be used with petroleum-based thinners.



Al also showed some new (to him) glues. If you've ever used E6000, which is a very strong gel type glue in a tube, you've probably ended up with a clogged tube/tip. Well, thanks to a tip from **Nick Muff, MMR**, a great substitute glue is **B7000**, which has a needle as part of the cap that keeps the tip clear. Also available in black, as **T7000**, which works very well with its precision point to "paint" on tar joints and seals on roofs. Bonus: this set also includes a free set of tweezers, and a set of pin-point applicators, which work surprisingly well.



Finally, Al shared another **Nick Muff** tip: "Black masking tape". Nick uses it to cover individual LEDs on an LED light strip he installs on the ceiling of his structures. This is a nifty way to "dim" the lighting in your structure without installing resistors, by "blacking out" as many LEDs as necessary to get the lighting level you want. Also works great for blackening windows in structures, so you can't see that the structure is empty!



Al reports that all of these items are available on Amazon, your "Doorstep Hobby Shop."

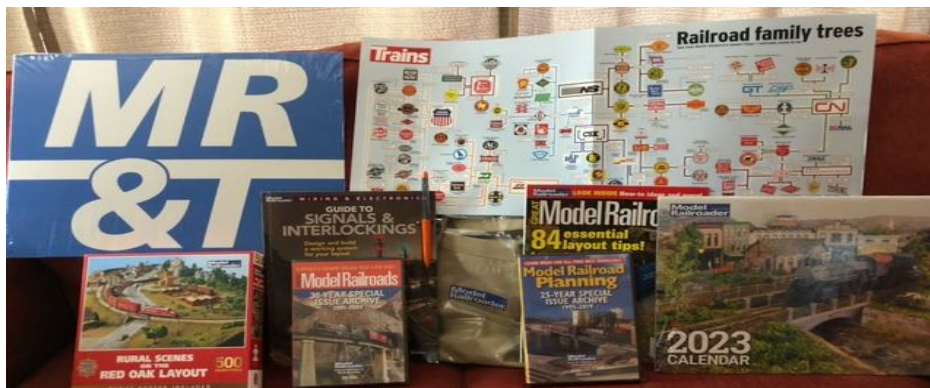
**Ron Nelson** brought several items that makes his modeling easier: A syringe with plastic tip for applying white glue (with holder made from a piece of PVC); a small squeeze bottle for fluids like isopropyl alcohol; and a film cannister (remember film?) that he pokes a small hole in the lid and feeds coiled up solder through it when soldering. Also, a soldering scrub pad for soldering iron tip cleaning, similar to this one:



**Karl Kleeman** is at it again – he has authored another book, "The Bellingham Bay & British Columbia Railroad." Karl had a sample at the clinic and will have some available for sale at the February Clinic.

**Phil Is a Winner!** From the "I Never Win Anything Department" comes this story about **Phil Gonzales** from his wife, **Susan Gonzales**:

*Here is our fun story. Every year in October, Model Railroader and Trains magazines sponsor the National Model Railroad Month Sweepstakes. Every year, Phil enters the sweepstakes. Every year, nothing happens. Until this year. Just after Christmas, we received an email from someone we have never heard of but the address was @kalmbach. Phil being the family doubter, actually called Kalmbach to verify that this email was valid. He had, in fact, won the sweepstakes. An exchange of information followed and yesterday, the box arrived. The retail value was \$164 but the look on Phil's face was priceless. I am enclosing a photo of the booty. Happy New Year and never give up.*



### **Modeler's Showcase:**

**Doug Seward** showed off a really cool O scale model made from paper! This is a product offered by Clever Models ([clevermodels.net](http://clevermodels.net)). They have a large library of models that you can purchase and download, print, and assemble. Hard to believe that the corrugated siding is just flat paper! Doug reports that he used a piece of Gatorboard as the base and on a couple of sides, to give it a little "heft".



Doug agreed to give a future clinic on this method of building structures, if there is enough interest. I, for one, am highly interested!



**Ron Nelson** continues to dazzle us. This time it is a scratchbuilt O scale water tank. Ron reports he used a piece of PVC pipe fitting as the "core" and went from there, with the wood support and siding, and then soldered each piece of wire that wraps around the tank. Ron still must assemble the rigging that will raise and lower the spout. Amazing!



**Phil Gonzales** brought along an HO scale trestle. Phil reports this Campbell Scale Models kit of a "Tall Curved Trestle" sat on his shelf for about 30 years before he finally got around to tackling the job of assembling the kit. Phil reports the trestle "grew" in length, and that he assembled it upside down on his workbench. Beautiful work and outstanding weathered wood!

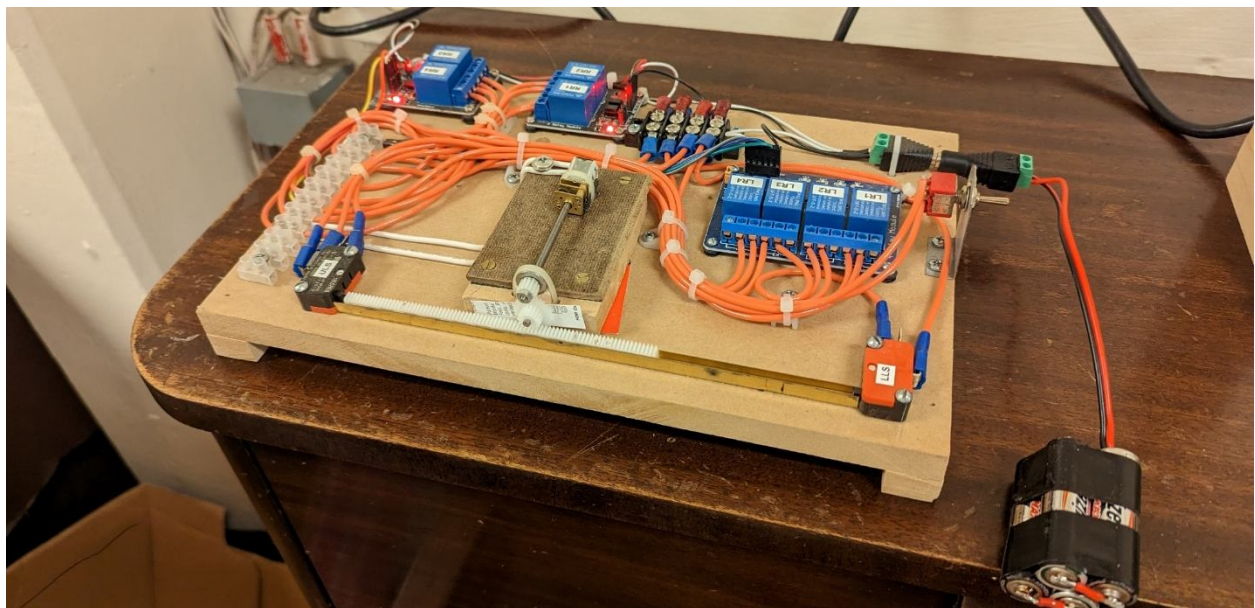
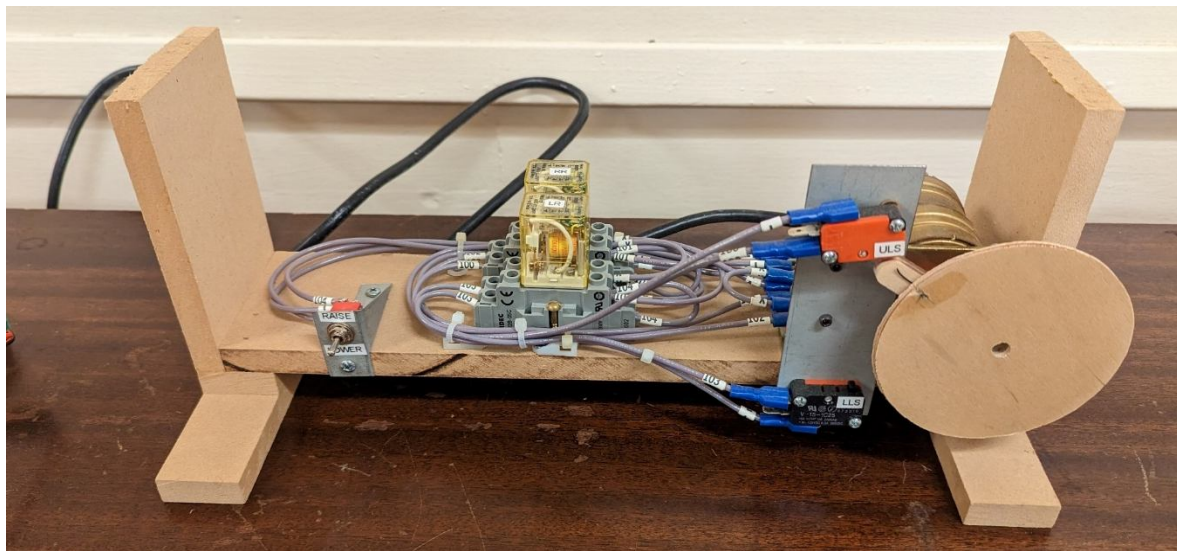




**Dave Falconer** also has been working on an HO scale trestle for his layout, but he is coupling this to an old AHM "Rolling Lift Bridge" – old timers in the hobby will recall this kit dates to the 1960s.



However, Dave isn't just building a static model. He has developed two mechanisms to power the lift bridge. The first one runs on 120vac, and the second unit is powered by 5vdc:





Which one will Dave choose? Come to the next clinics to find out!

**Cliff Aaker** built an O scale “wall” scene in the scratchbuilt category of a contest, back in 2016.



This was on a diorama that could be no larger than 24 sq in. Cliff says there is a calendar on the desk inside the window that is dated to the date he built the model. Can you see it? It's there!

**Al Carter** showed two models. First is an HO model from FOS Scale Models, the “Kone Shack”. Astute observers noted that it says “Open All Year” but has a “Closed” sign at the counter. Al used the black U7000 glue mentioned in Tool Time on the roof. And the other one is an N scale DPM building that was built for the Whatcom/Skagit Model RR Club. The brick sides were “painted” with colored



pencils over a gray primer base, and the sign honors club member Steve McCartt, club photographer and videographer. No N scale cameras in the window, though!

**Evening's Main Event:** Mark Malmkar, MMR, regaled us with his clinic titled "Seasonal Layout Changes". Mark, while living "back home" in Nebraska, and as a member of the Tri Cities Model RR Club, undertook the task of building several different modular scenes for a window display at the Children's Museum in Kearney, NE. Each scene was modeled three times, in three seasons (summer, fall, and winter). So, Mark ended up building the same building in each scene three times! And he did this for 4 different locations on the module!

Spring/Summer:





Fall:



Winter:



## Coming Down the Track:

Feb 11	Alger	WSMRC Open House – HO & N Scale Layouts
Feb 20	Mt. Vernon	Clinic: Bob Stafford – BNSF Yards in Everett
Feb 25/26	Monroe	United NW Model RR Club Show/Swap Meet
Mar 11	Alger	WSMRC Open House – HO & N Scale Layouts
Mar 20	Mount Vernon	Clinic: Don Jones – Estate Planning
Apr 8	Alger	WSMRC Open House – HO & N Scale Layouts
Apr 17	Mount Vernon	Clinic: Tom Hawkins – Ground Goop
May 6	Mount Vernon	Mini Swap Meet – Mark Malmkar
May 13	Alger	WSMRC Open House – HO & N Scale Layouts
May 15	Mount Vernon	Clinic: Nick Muff – Home Layout Visit
May 19-14	Tacoma	PNR Convention
Aug 21-26	Dallas, Tx	NMRA National Convention

**February Clinic:** Join us for “The Ebb and Flow of BNSF’s Everett Terminal 2005” - Retired BNSF Trainmaster **Bob Stafford** will present a clinic about the operation of Everett Terminal which consists of the Delta Yard, Lowell, Bayside Yard, Everett Junction, and MP 31 yard. The presentation will include an overview of the yard with maps, a review of the function of each yard, and the trains that arrived and departed from them.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. For more info on joining the NMRA, see: [www.nmra.org/membership](http://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.

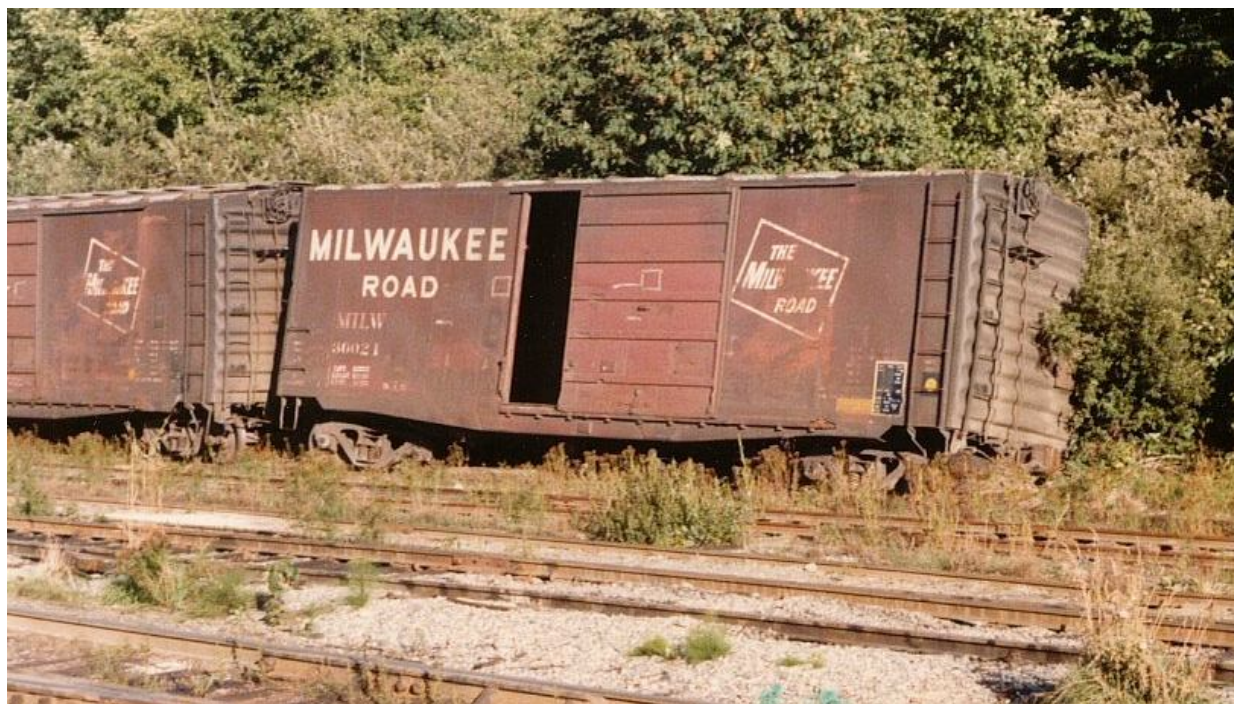
**Building Access:** Please remember to use the rear door (up the ramp off the parking lot). For security reasons, the door cannot be propped open and must remain closed and locked.

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

**Bring:** Bring a favorite tool or new tool to share with us in **Tool Time**. Bring a model to share in the **Modeler’s Showcase** (in-progress is fine – sometimes in-progress examples are great learning opportunities). Bring unwanted items to give away or sell on the **Free/Sell** table. Bring photos of your layout or projects and we’ll show them with the **New Projector** (bring on a USB thumb drive).



**Mystery Photo:** No one responded with the location of the mystery photo in the November 2022 newsletter. So, I get to keep the prize (grin). Anyway, that photo was taken by yours truly back in about 1979, in Bellingham. Location was the old Milwaukee Road yard down by the harbor, and that car just derailed at the end of the track and was simply left there – not worth the trouble to re-rail it. Nice weathering on the car, though!



**And That's a Wrap for This Month...**

