

A Division of the
BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD
c/o Bill Hupé, 3010 Austin Drive K201, Bremerton, Washington 98312

FORM
19

THE FLIMSY BOARD

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19

Train No. 1 Vol. 44

Issue: January 2019



Busy day at the Mill
(photograph by Bill Hupé used with permission)

NEXT CLUB EVENTS:

January 5, 2019, 9:30 a.m. – NMRA 4th Division BOD Meeting at Mitzels, Kent

January 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m. – Annual Dinner & BNMR Business Meeting, at The Family Pancake House on Kitsap Way, Bremerton.

January 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

January 18-21, 2019 – 4th Division Pacific Science Center Show, Seattle (no K W layout)

January 18-20, 2019 – SHOW – Great American Train Show, Puyallup

The Flimsy Board is the official publication of the Bremerton Northern Model Railroad, Inc.

Flimsy Board Staff

Editor Bill Hupé
Publisher Bill Hupé

Contributions can be sent to The Flimsy Board c/o *Bill Hupé, 3010 Austin Drive, Apt. K201, Bremerton, WA 98312*. Deadline for each issue is the 25th of the month.

MEETING NOTICE:

The regular Business Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month. Business meetings are held at United Way of Kitsap County, 647 4th St, Bremerton, WA at 7:00 PM. If the first Monday is a holiday, when the meeting day shall be the second Monday of the month.

BREMERTON NORTHERN OFFICERS:

President Tom Barrett
Vice President Bob Jensen
Secretary Bill Hupé
Treasurer Wes Stevens
Sergeant-at-Arms Dick Stivers

DIRECTORS:

George Conroy, Rick Snyder, Bert Cripe, Mike Boyle

Web Site: <http://bnmrr.org>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1988490354736510/>

OFF THE MAINLINE



Happy New Year!

I have made several changes to this latest edition. I have added a second page combining the old last page info and reviving my old editorial column. Additionally, Michael Boyle has written his first article on layout construction for an aging modeler.

We have had a great year with new members stepping up to help make our club better. Our N- Scale division, manning a table at the hobby shop, working with the BSA, all new in 2018 have increased our visibility and I'm sure will lead to new members.

All the help I got working on the tunnel modules allowed me to complete more in a short time. Thank you, Bert, Bruce, Bob, and Izzie. I'm hoping you all like what we did. If not, next time maybe you should come out and suggest changes and work with us.

Bill

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Bill' written in a stylized, cursive-like font.



The Semaphore Board

January 2019



I trust everyone had a joyous holiday season. And, I wish you all a prosperous new year.

Last month, we manned an Information Table at HobbyTown U.S.A. in Silverdale. It ran fairly smoothly after a shaky start. If we plan to do it again, maybe we can get the word out better to the general public. I'm keeping it on the schedule as a single line so that, maybe, we will be better prepared. Thanks go to Bert for coordinating this activity. Our being there increases our exposure to the public, gives support to a local business, and encourages a business to support us in a favorite hobby.

Also last month, we had our annual election meeting. Thanks to Vern's efforts and the cooperation of the nominees, we ended up with at least one person nominated for each position. Congratulations are in order for all the successful candidates.

This month we have our annual dinner with a short business meeting at The Family Pancake House on Kitsap Way in Bremerton. Hope to see you there.

Also, this month on January 18-20, we have our HO layout on display at The Great Train Show (GTS) in Puyallup. The signup sheet was in last month's Flimsy and its deadline is the 8th. If you didn't get an emailed copy and would like one, let me know so I can get one to you. We need as many members as possible to support this and all other activities. The activities are there for your enjoyment of our hobby.

Speaking of activities, the NMRA PNR Fourth Division is also asking for help the same weekend as the Great Train Show. For that weekend and the following Monday, they are having their train show at the Pacific Science Center. If you can help, it would be much appreciated. Contact one of the officers or the PSC Show coordinator for more information. This show is the prime fundraiser for the Fourth Division.

During the break between the November Retsil show and GTS, members have been busy upgrading the scenery on the reverse corner modules. Of course, because of the tunnel, most of the upgrade is on the branch line. Some of the buildings were moved, the track ballasted and weeds are growing between the rails on the sidings. It's looking good and will undoubtedly be an attraction at GTS.

Tom Barrett

BNMR Year Schedule:

January 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m. – Annual Dinner & BNMR Business Meeting, at The Family Pancake House on Kitsap Way, Bremerton.

January 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

January 18-21, 2019 – 4th Division Pacific Science Center Show, Seattle (no K W layout)

January 18-20, 2019 – SHOW – Great American Train Show, Puyallup

February 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

February 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

February 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

February 22-24, 2019 – SHOW – United North West Train Show & Marketplace, Monroe

March 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

March 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

March 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

March 29 – 31, 2019 – SHOW – Retsil Veterans' Home Show, Port Orchard

April 1, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

April 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

April 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

April 26 – 28, 2019 – SHOW – Brookdale Montclair Poolsbo

May 6, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

May 6, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

May 14, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

June 3, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

June 3, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

June 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

June 15, 2019 – BNMR Swap Meet, Bremerton

July 1, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

July 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

July 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

August 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

August 5, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

August 13, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

(TBC) August 18 – 26, 2019 – SHOW – Kitsap County Fair, Bremerton

September 9, 2019, 6:00 – Board meeting location to be determined

September 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, (*delayed one week because of Labor Day*), location to be determined.

September 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m. NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

October 4 – 6, 2019– SHOW –Lynden Lions Model Train Show, Lynden

October 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

October 7, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

October 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

October 12 – 14, 2019– SHOW –North Olympic Peninsula Railroaders Train Show & Swap, Port Angeles

November 1-3 2019 – SHOW – Retsil Veteran's Home Show, Port Orchard

November 4, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

November 4, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – BNMR Business meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

November 12, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

November 29-December 1, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division MOHAI Train Show, Seattle

December 7, 14 21, 2019, 1:00-4:00 p.m. – (TBC) Information Table at HobbyTown U.S.A. in Silverdale

December 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m. – Board meeting, contact the President to confirm

December 2, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – Annual Election Meeting, at United Way Building, Bremerton

December 10, 2019, 7:00 p.m. – NMRA 4th Division Clinic at United Way Building, Bremerton

Making Layouts Accessible for All

By Michael Boyle

Introduction

I posed the question on a couple of model railroading forums asking how people have made adaptations to their layouts to accommodate the changes associated with aging. The most interesting responses came to the Model Railroader Magazine under the Layouts and Layout Building section. The conversation is titled “ADA Accessibility,” so I’m going to start by thanking everyone who responded and acknowledging that the bulk of the ideas contained in the rest of this article are theirs.

The Problems

I came up with a list of “Problems.” The first one that came to my mind was Memory. People keep telling me to “make notes to yourself.” There are two major difficulties with that solution: First, I’m not sure what things to make a note about. If I started making notes about everything, then that is all I would do, make notes, and never get anything done. Second, with my memory, I cannot remember where I put the relevant note. So, if you’ve come up with a good solution for this problem, I wish you would share it. Now, where was I and what was I doing?

Oh yeah, problems, problems with solutions. In no particular order, the ones that I (or the forum) came up with include the following: Flexibility (including the ability to reach something or get up-and-down), the need to be seated (or only being able to stand for limited lengths of time), and vision.

Possible Adaptations

Here are some of the possible adaptations:

For *Flexibility* we need to find ways to get into awkward positions or extend our reach.

The first suggestion involves simply keeping things accessible in the first place. Don’t put the wiring way out of reach. Consider putting it behind a removable fascia, which would make it accessible while seated in a comfortable chair, or roll around stool, available in the \$27-\$100 range, depending on how much support you want.



<https://www.harborfreight.com/automotive-motorcycle/creepers-seats.html>

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This brings up *Seating Options*: Some of us may want the comfort of the Lazy Boy (one on wheels) but they are fairly large and won't fit in the aisles of most layouts. Perhaps a roll around office chair would work, but they are still large. A rollator (walker with wheels) seems to be a good option. Some have locking wheel brakes and fold down seat, and some even have padded back rest and arm rest. Keep in mind that, if you are going to use rolling stools or chairs, those foam floor mats can make rolling difficult. To accommodate both the chair and those who stand, strategically placed mats or portable mats may be the answer.

And this leads us to aisle dimensions: Make them as large as possible! 36 to 48 inches would be great. Shucks, I can still walk around fairly well but find, when visiting some layouts, the aisles are so narrow it can be difficult to squeeze past someone else. Definitely not wide enough for a chair of any size.

When working under the layout one possibility is a comfortable creeper. Harbor Freight makes one for under \$30:



(<https://www.harborfreight.com/automotive-motorcycle/creeper-seats/250-lbs-capacity-heavy-duty-creeper-with-adjustable-headrest-63311.html>)

Looking at this creeper gives me an idea: That looks comfortable enough to take a nap on, back under the layout, when my wife gets too ambitious with the "honey-do-list."

What about the top side, reaching out over the layout to get that derailed car next to the back drop? (Trust me, I'm not popping up through "access holes" anymore.) Stable platforms to stand on help. They can be made with wheels that collapse when you stand on them. In key locations, a step stool that resides under the layout may help. These stools or platforms have the added benefit of providing a way for short kids to get up and see our often too high layouts.

If you need to lean over the layout and do some extended work, there is nothing quite like a Topside Creeper.

Making Layouts Accessible for All

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Topside Creepers are available in the \$175 to \$250 range. While giving better support, these still have the disadvantage of having to climb a step or two to get up on.

For reaching, how about a 36" magnetic pickup tool with a large magnet and/or a 32" reach grabber with a little extra padding on the jaws which makes them a bit gentler on highly detailed equipment?

This brings us to the "Adjustable" Layout:

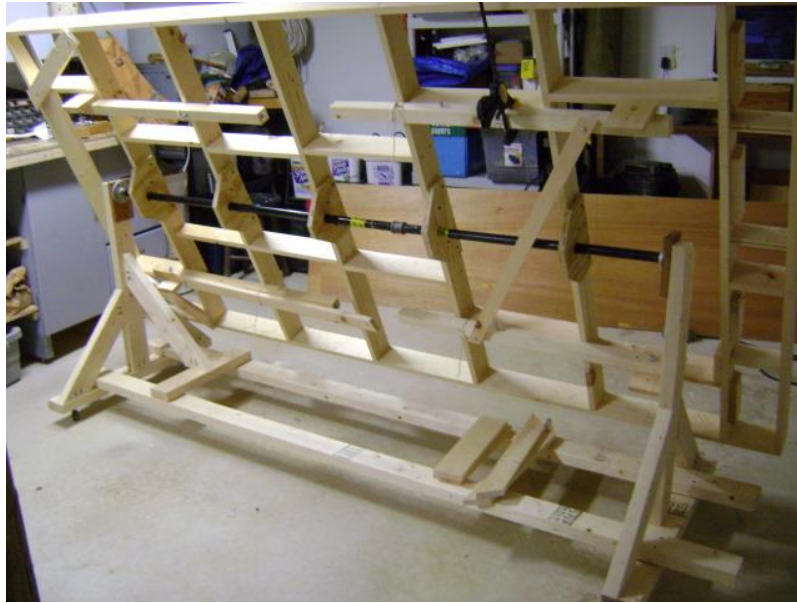
The June 1977 issue of Model Railroader had article about the Midland Valley RR. This 14' X 25' layout, built in a three-car garage, had steel cables, pulleys, and counterweight to raise and lower the layout.

For a small enough layout Ray Mathews has written a book on making a Tilt table:

The book is available from Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/TiltTable-Book-Tables-Model-Railroad/dp/0983579008/ref=sr_1_fkmr0_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1543882589&sr=1-1-fkmr0&keywords=tilt+table+model+railroad) and there is an interesting video of a commercially available table on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZv8S_eXopQ

Making Layouts Accessible for All

By Michael Boyle



For those of us in the Bremerton Northern Model Railroad Club, an obvious solution for many of these issues is to have a modular layout. Advantages include the ease with which the height of the layout can be changed. Even if you have no problems standing, it is nice to be able to take a module to a stand where it can be flipped to work on the underside and placed low enough to permit working in a seated position.

Vision Problems may be overcome by building narrow modules or, perhaps, shelf layouts. Such layouts make it easy to attach a magnifying lens to the edge of the layout where we can work in a comfortably seated position.

This brings me to some closing thoughts. Too many layouts are built in basements or attics where it is just about impossible to get a wheel chair or walker to. We need more ramps or chair lifts and fewer stairs and door thresholds that are high (to say nothing of the narrow width of the door).

Remember: We are creative and, when we apply a little thought, can overcome many of the so-called "handicaps."

If you have more thoughts on this subject, please let me know. I'll keep compiling them

NEUMANN'S CROSSINGS

by Bill Hupé



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bowser (<http://www.bowser-trains.com>): Announced HO scale 70 Ton Offset Hopper Cars. Delivery expected Summer 2019. Road names available B&O, Burlington, CASO, DT&I, NKP, ON, SBD, SP, and TH&B. Multiple road numbers. They also announced HO scale 55 Ton Fishbelly Hopper Cars. Expected delivery Summer 2019. Road names available B&O, C&O, CNJ, D&H, Lehigh, N&W, RDG, WM, and NS. Multiple road numbers.

Micro-Trains (<https://www.micro-trains.com>): Micro-Trains is excited to announce their newest series; the Thomas Kinkade Painter of Light™ 12-Car Series! This N scale series will feature twelve remarkable Thomas Kinkade paintings on black boxcars and will also include a locomotive and caboose. Each car will be equipped with interior lighting that can be turned on and off from the outside of the car using a wand, to illuminate the painting on the side of the car. Cars will also be available without the interior lighting component. Begins March 2019.

Motrak Models (<http://motrakmodelsusa.com>): Jeff at Motrak sent out a Christmas message. Hi Folks, Motrak Models is now back in business.

The last three months I have been working consulting with Readerlink building displays and filling them up with Christmas books for Walmart. The job is done and now I'm back designing and producing new products. So, stay tuned for new product announcements in all scales. I should have something new in all scales by the time I go to Amherst train show at the end of January. Mr. Charlie Getz did a review on my HO scale camper kit in this month's issue of Narrow-Gauge Gazette. Go check it out and order one while it's on sale.

RAILROAD TRIVIA

How many miles of track make up the California Western Railroad?

Answer in next month's Flimsy

NEUMANN'S CROSSINGS

by Bill Hupé



Answer to last month's trivia

How many miles of track made up the Duluth, Missabe & Iron Range?

599 Miles.

The Duluth, Missabe and Iron Range Railway (DM&IR) was a Minnesota institution that played a vital role in our country's steel production. While several Midwestern carriers moved iron ore in some capacity only the Missabe Road did so on a grand scale along a condensed network of just a few hundred miles. Its main lines fanned out northward from docks situated at Duluth and Two Harbors to serve the bountiful Mesabi and Vermilion Ranges. The discovery of this important resource predates the Civil War although contemporary mining operations did not begin until the early 1880's. In time, two railroads came to serve the region; the Duluth & Iron Range and Duluth, Missabe & Northern. After many years as, separate entities the two merged in the late 1930's to form the modern Missabe Road. Over the years its system map constantly changed as it built, then removed, trackage while following the iron. As time passed the natural ore fields were exhausted which gave rise to the taconite pellet, a sort of man-made ore created from natural deposits. In May of 2004 Canadian National purchased Great Lakes Transportation, which owned the DM&IR, and within a decade its corporate identity vanished.



NTRAK Musing

By Bert Cripe

Considering: Standards and Modules

We are now well into module construction and the questions of how to do it are popping up.

The first thing to ask yourself, when a question arises is, what do the standards have to say? Don't lose sight of these two facts:

First, NTRAK has been around since 1973! There are many shows/setups all around the country (actually the world) each year. These shows work because the people involved followed the standards. The national NTRAK standards are free to read and download at: <http://www.ntrak.org/publications/default.html> or you can link to them from our website. Our local standards only address those areas where the national standards are silent or allow variations. Our local governing documents are available in the N Scale Division section of our website: www.bnmrr.org along with a DCC Manual that is based upon my 10 years of experience with DCC and from the work of others.

Speaking from personal experience having worked in the Free-mo N world for the past ten years (and building 17 modules) when the standards are ignored and short cuts taken the setups can be much less than rewarding. The problems resulting from failing to follow the standards will limit and in some cases totaling prevent you from running trains.

