

THE FLIMSY BOARD

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Issue: March 2020



[BNMR is a 100%
NMRA Member Club](#)

March 2nd meetings:

Board 6:00 pm.

Business 7:00 pm.

Clubhouse, Kitsap Mall,
Silverdale.



The old and the new on the Kitsap Western. *Photo by Ray Hagele*

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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. We belong to the NMRA's Pacific Northwest Region (PNR), 4th Division.

FLIMSY BOARD STAFF:

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Submittal deadline is the 25th of the month. Copyright 2020 BNMR, Inc.

Unless otherwise noted photos are by the Editor.

MEETINGS NOTICE:

The regular Business meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at the clubhouse in the Kitsap Mall, Silverdale, beginning at 7:00 PM. If the first Monday is a holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled to the second Monday of the month. The January meeting is our annual dinner meeting held at a local restaurant.

Board meetings are held at a time and place set by the President. Refer to the Calendar below.

OFFICERS:

President:..... Bruce Himmerick
Vice President: Bob Jensen
Secretary: Bill Hupé
Treasurer : Wes Stevens
Sergeant-at-Arms: Ray Hagele
Directors:..... Bert Cripe, Mike Boyle,
Dick Stivers, Russell West

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

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

MARCH CALENDAR

2nd, 6:00 pm..... Board Meeting, Clubhouse, Kitsap Mall, Silverdale
2nd, 7:00 pm..... Business Meeting, Clubhouse, Kitsap Mall, Silverdale
10th, 7:00 pm NMRA 4th Division Clinic, Clubhouse, Kitsap Mall, Silverdale
21st LK&R Model RR Club Train Show and Swap Meet, Kelso

2020 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Visit the PNR, 4D Website (<http://4dpnr.com/events/>) for complete listing of Division events

For activities in all Divisions of the Pacific Northwest Region, visit the PNR Timetable: (<http://pnr.nmra.org/>)

March 2, 6:00 pm – Board meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

March 2, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

March 10, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

March 21 – LK&R Model RR Club Train Show and Swap Meet, Three Rivers Mall, Kelso, <http://lkrtrains.yolasite.com/>

(TBD) April – Board meeting.

April 6, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

April 14, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

April 21 - 24 – Make Tracks to Eugene, 2020, PNR Convention, Eugene, <http://www.MakeTracksToEugene.com>

(TBD) May – Board meeting.

May 4, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

May 12, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

May 22 – 24 – 5th Annual Railway Modellers Meet of BC, Coldstream, BC: <http://railwaymodellersmeetofbc.ca/>

(TBD) June – Board meeting.

June 1, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

June 9, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

June 20, 10:00 am – BNMR Swap Meet – Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

(TBD) July – Board meeting.

July 6, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

July 14, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

(TBD) August – Board meeting.

August 3, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

August 11, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

September 7 – Labor Day – Business meeting moved one week to the 14th.

September 8, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

September 14, 7:00 pm – Business meeting at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale (delayed one week due to Labor Day).

(TBD) September – Board meeting.

(TBD) September 19-20 – North Olympic Peninsula Railroaders Train Show & Swap Meet, Port Angeles.

October 3 – 4 – Lynden Lions Train Show, Lynden.

(TBD) October – Board meeting.

October 5th, 7:00 pm – Business meeting, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

October 13th, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

November 2nd, 7:00 pm – Business meeting, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

November 11th, 7:00 pm – NMRA 4th Division Clinic, at Kitsap Mall, Silverdale.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I recently read this excerpt:

"The Editor shall collect and create content to be presented in an interesting, informative, and attractive manner for publication in an electronic monthly newsletter ... with the goal of promoting the activities and people of the Division."

This came from the May 2013 issue of the Sunrise Herald, the newsletter of the Sunrise Division, Rocky Mountain Region, edited by Tom Frerichs. This appeared in his last issue of the newsletter.

I kept the quote as a reminder and guidance in this job of publishing the Flimsy. As Tom describes the job, it is a tall order. But I feel it can be used as an inspiration to reach a goal.

Many tasks in this hobby can seem intimidating at first, especially when looking at the quality work some modelers achieve. It may be normal to be intimidated, but instead we should look for inspiration in the work of others.

In the March 2014 issue of Model Railroad Hobbyist, Don Hanley wrote:

"Inspiration to move outside your comfort zone requires courage, work, and education. How many of us have had the old saying drilled into our heads, "if you are going to do it, do it right." You need to overcome the idea that, as adults, we must do it right or to perform to gold-medal standards the first time out of the gate."

"To further my growth in the hobby, I recently decided to pursue the NMRA Master Model Railroader merit achievement. In reading through the requirements for the different categories, I suddenly realized that my goal is more involved than I had anticipated, and a lot more growth is required to achieve it."

"To complete the achievement, I must step outside my comfort zone in several areas, ...in the long run the journey will be worth it."

Like so many of us, I have been intimidated by

the work of others. I have hesitated and procrastinated about doing scenery. But I overcame that by working on the club's HO layout with Bill H. Over a period of several months we installed new and refreshed some old scenery. While I have no expectation of my work winning much praise, I did learn some techniques and expanded my comfort zone.

Since then I have not hesitated to tackle more scenery work on the NTRAK modules. I now feel at ease applying scenery materials and look forward to using my new static grass applicator (see Product of the Month in the February Flimsy).

Model Railroad Magazine contributor editor Tony Koester once wrote about doing "good enough". It was not about doing poor quality work, but instead about finding your comfort zone and quality of work that is acceptable to your own standards. Then getting on with the hobby of model railroading for your own satisfaction.

That is the path I am on now. I try hard to do quality work and I am no longer afraid to rip out some older work to make improvements or changes. But I don't let doubt over my skills stop me from trying. I will have to study techniques I am not familiar with and expect to be dissatisfied with some of my work. It is only failure when you stop trying, I fully expect to suffer setback. Don't think of it as a destination, but a journey to enjoy.

The goal is to have fun and run some trains.

Tom Frerichs said the editor's job is to present material in an interesting, informative, and attractive manner. That is a tall order but the difficult part is collecting the material and for that I need everyone's help. I don't expect club members to write full length articles but a paragraph describing what you are doing in the hobby can be of interest to the rest of us and perhaps inspire another person or start a conversation at the clubhouse.

.... BC

N SCALE DIVISION REPORT

Much is happening in the N scale division. We welcome Dave Woodward to the group, bringing total division membership to 11. Almost half of the club members are involved in N scale modeling to some degree.

We held a planning meeting in February to discuss plans as we move forward, set some goals, and determine what items we need to purchase. Funding was a topic.

With generous donations from division members, both cash and materials, we will be building our new DCC command cart soon and construction some new modules. Once the weather warms up work will begin work. A big 'thank you' to BoB W. and Harold W. for your generous contributions!

The existing return loops need some TLC due to the fact they were cobbled together from reclaimed materials and built in a rush to support attending the Port Angeles show last September.

A new module frame will be built to eventually provide a junction feature. Before it is finished for that function, it will be used as a temporary return loop to allow the existing return loops to be reworked with improved track plans and rigidity, one loop at a time.

The Digitrax AR-1 units have been replaced with DCC Specialties PSX-AR units. The Digitrax units are just too finicky which results in hesitations at the reversal points. The PSX units are totally solid state and provide fault-free performance.

Another topic at the February meeting was operations. It was agreed the need to have customers for the trains to serve is a very important goal. To this end, several of the planned new modules will have sidings and industries of various types.

Down the road we need to discuss the designs for both a fiddle yard and a classification yard. Usually a fiddle yard is placed inside a ring or

closed loop style layout and a classification yard is in-line with the main lines.

Once the new DCC cart is ready for use, the DCC Handbook will be revise to cover the use of the new equipment. The procedure changes will be minimal since the new command station is very similar in operation to the one currently in use.

The new equipment includes a DB150 which can supply 5 amps to the DCC buss and supports 22 throttles and 22 locos addresses at one time. We also have three DT402D wireless throttles available to use right now. These throttles can operation two locos at one time. They require one 9V battery to function.

A DCS51 has been placed in service to power the fiddle yard and the nearby return loop. That unit includes a built-in stationary throttle which can be used to control a loco for yard switching if anyone wants to do some yard work. The DCS51 can provide up to 3 amps for the yard's DCC buss.

.... BC



NEW MEMBER REPORT

Welcome aboard! New club members!

January 2020:

- Wyatt Green

February 2020:

- Dave Woodward
- James Callahan

.... BC

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

This column reports on a product or vendor of interest to model railroad hobbyists. Topics will be selected at random based upon perceived appeal of the products. Frequency of the feature will vary. BC

For several months now, since I began doing some scenery in earnest, I have wanted a small shop vacuum. The shop vacuum in my detached garage is a 16 gallon unit that is too large and awkward to use inside the house.

Last month while browsing the tool section at Lowes I chanced upon this small wet/dry unit called the 'Bucketmax'.

It is designed to fit on top of a standard 5 gallon bucket. There are two locking levers to secure the power head to the bucket.

It comes with a foam filter over the float valve and a fabric filter to install over the foam filter. The hose is 1¼ inch diameter and 4 feet long. Generic reducers and nozzles are available at hardware stores.

Performance is good and the unit seems to be made well enough for my limited use with a price tag of \$22.48. I searched online for it and found similar units for slightly more cost. The Lowes website lists it as discontinued.

One word of caution: When installed on the bucket, the unit is top heavy and will flip over if lifted by the bail. Use two hands!

I am satisfied with the cost, performance, and size for my occasional, light use.



ON THIS DATE ...

March 1957: The Milwaukee Road final steam train. A class G8 4-6-0 #1004, on the night of March 15-16, made a roundtrip between Austin, Minnesota and La Crosse Wisconsin.

March 19, 1918: US Congress passes Standard Time Act.

President Woodrow Wilson signed into law the Standard Time Act. The legislation established federally mandated time zones across the nation and called for daylight saving time to begin on March 31

Also known as the Calder Act, was the first United States federal law implementing Standard time and Daylight saving time in the United States. It authorized the Interstate Commerce Commission to define each time zone.

March 19th, 1920: The Federal Government privatized the railroads after World War I.

One of the broadest acts of presidential power happened in 1917 when President Woodrow Wilson issued an order for the federal government to nationalize the entire railroad system during World War I.

.... BC



AROUND THE INTERNET

The sight and sounds of moving steam locomotives can be so haunting and beautiful. Follow this link to a wonderful video of a steam locomotive making its way through a winter snow scene. https://youtu.be/7m_wHJNeY0U

Thinking about modeling a petroleum distributor?

Checkout the March 2014 issue of Model Railroad Hobbyist online magazine. Tony Thompson wrote a very good 'Getting Real' column with prototype and model photos that should help and inspire you for this type of project.

Get back issues here:

<https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/magazine/back-issues>

Visit Tony's blog at:

<https://modelingthesp.blogspot.com/>

The 4D website has a section titled 'Articles & Presentations'. From the webpage:

"The 4th Division's members and friends are a talented group of modelers and railfans. Here we are proud to showcase articles and presentations written by them about a wide variety of railroad-related subjects."

"These articles are available for reading, printing, and appropriate personal use, but each is copyrighted by its respective author. Please respect their rights. Request permission from them for any other use."

Over twelve PDF files are available to download. Don't overlook this free resource produced by local modelers.

<http://4dpr.com/articles-presentations/>

If you would like to become more acquainted

with DCC, here are two presentations that may help:

DCC Wiring - A Practical Guide:

http://4dpr.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/DCC_Wiring.pdf

DCC Decoder Installation:

http://4dpr.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/DCC_Decoder_Installation.pdf

Of special interest to our NTRAK folks will be:

"Designing and Painting Forested Backdrops, 2016 4D Spring Meet Clinic Handout"

.... BC



Prototype photos submitted by Peter Bieber

STEVE'S STRAIGHTS

Former member Steve Strauss remembers...

Greetings from Malvern and Ouachita Valley (Arkansas) environs.

March 2 marks the 50th anniversary of the merger of GN, NP, CB&Q and SP&S to form BN. Cascade green would soon cover olive and orange, big sky blue, 2-tone green, Chinese red and gray, etc.

I once had a set of Athearn BN motive power which I later sold to various club members when thinning out my motive power collection. Some of those had been custom painted by the original owner, some are ones I custom painted, and some came in the box as BN. The club may still have a set of six BN boxcars which I contributed to the club rolling stock pool along with two Milwaukee Road boxcars.

Of course, BN didn't live to be 50. BNSF formed in 1996. The SLSF (Frisco) had been absorbed by BN in 1980

I took this photo of the prototype in 1979 in Bremerton by the BN freight house, where the PSNS pass & ID office now sits.



This Overland Models caboose (pictured at right) is my only remaining piece of BN equipment. The biggest change I made to the model was to replace the freight car trucks it came with, with express reefer type trucks.

The ACI stripes indicated my membership number 18. One of the club members had made those up for each member, color coded for his or her membership number. The caboose made its debut at the May 1980 MRR show at the Mason County Fairgrounds during Forest Festival, when I took this photo. The ground outside had a dusting of gray from an eruption by Mount St. Helens a week earlier.



There'll be more of my personal BN memories in the next *Flimsy*. I'm ready for spring.

.... YIMRR, Steve



4TH DIVISION WESTSIDE CLINIC

Beginning this month the clinic moves into our clubhouse in the mall.

The clinics are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month and begin at 7:00 pm.

These clinics are a part of your NMRA membership benefits. The topics cover a wide range of subjects from how-to informative presentations to prototype lectures to 'travel log' format slide shows.

It is inexpensive entertainment, you might learn something, usually coffee and cookies are available, and some door prizes are awarded.

.... BC