

# THE FLIMSY BOARD



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

Meetings are suspended  
until further notice due to  
the current virus situation.



*Corner Mountain on the N Scale layout.*

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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  
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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/>

## APRIL CALENDAR

Meetings and events are suspended or cancelled until further notice.

Stay home and stay safe!

For true and responsible virus information please visit the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

## 2020 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Visit the PNR, 4D Website (<http://4dpr.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/>)

As this issue goes to press, most gatherings are cancelled or postponed.

Listings here will return as isolation recommendations and requirements evolve.

Your best source for regional event info is the 4D website you can link to from the address above.

### 4TH DIVISION MEET MAKE & TAKE CLINIC

This is a Continuation Call for interest in the Fourth Division Make and Take Clinic for Summer/Fall Meet.

Date and Location: TBD

The Fourth Division Make and Take Clinic Series Event will be a part of the Summer/Fall Meet this year.

Because of the flexibility required in schedule for this year, the Clinicians will need to determine interest and then collect materials in advance. There is a certain lead time for some items which come from Canada.

The information for the 2020 Meet clinic is as follows:

Place: Mt Vernon or Everett (probably).

Date: Summer/Fall (TBD).

Clinic: Scratch Build (wood) an HO Scale or N Scale Tunnel Portal. We will be using a Hunter Line kit that is a "sticks -in- the- bag" kit. The properly completed model will support AP requirements for a scratch built structure.

Materials: Wood and metal.

Scale offered: HO and N.

Estimated cost: \$35.00

As with previous clinics, the estimated clinic time is 9:00AM until 3:00PM with a break for lunch. This can be a "brown bag" lunch activity or lunch can be ordered with Meet registration. Our lunch break will be to attend the 4D meeting.

Please contact Jack Hamilton at:

[gradiver@wavecable.com](mailto:gradiver@wavecable.com)

ASAP to let me know if you are interested and/or plan to participate. This information is to allow ordering material and is not a hard commitment to participate.

I need to gain a reasonable sense of interest in this clinic.

Please provide your Scale (HO or N) so I can prepare the order.

Thanks,

....Jack H

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

**W**e find ourselves in an unprecedented situation for our generation.

However, as an Anglophile and history buff of the Twentieth Century I know that the people who lived during the Second World War faced incredibly uncertain and difficult situations.

But they, or at least most, were able to keep a level head about themselves, listen to the experts, ignore the BS, and pull together to get through their most difficult of times!

While we are not, and for good reason, able to come together at the Mall to enjoy our hobby as a group we can still communicate by phone and email. We can still enjoy aspects of our hobby by visiting websites and watching YouTube videos.

There are many skill sets involved with model railroading — that is one reason it is so appealing to many of us. This hobby provides the opportunity to become involved in all, a few, or only one aspect.

This down time has removed all of the deadlines and stress I normally have to work under. It has provided me with the freedom to work on those personal projects as I feel compelled to without concern for a time frame.

I will continue to send my weekly emails with updates about my exploits and suggestions for websites and videos.

I have included in this issue a reply from Raymond H. about his hobby efforts during the shutdown.

If you care to share your thoughts and stories with the rest of the membership drop me a line.

.... BC



## 4D SPRING MEET

**T**he Fourth Division announced this year's Spring Meet, originally scheduled to be held on May 16–17, has been postponed.

This announcement from Al Lowe, 4D Assistant Superintendent:

“The 4th Division's annual Spring Meet and home Layout Tour has been postponed this year due to Covid-19. We will set a date when we know more. Stay safe!”

Visit <http://4dspringmeet.com/> for updates in the weeks ahead.

....BC



Prototype photos submitted by Peter Bieber

## N SCALE DIVISION REPORT

**W**ork on the new DCC command station cart has begun. Hardware for the cart itself and DCC components have been purchased. Once the cart is constructed and the DCC components are installed, revisions to the Red Handbook will be written, tested, and then issued to book holders.

Module construction will begin with the set up of the fixture table. This fixture will help us in our effort to construct flat, square module frames.

Power Pole connectors and wiring have been acquired. Suitcase connectors and LocoNet cable and plugs are on hand.

At some point the new junction module frame will be built and the temporary track will be installed. This module will be used in place of the existing return loop modules, one-at-a-time, so that they can be rebuilt to be more reliable and solid.

The two standard sized modules that immediately attach to the rebuilt return loops will have a new turnout arrangement installed that will allow a train approaching on any track to turn around and leave on any track. This new arrangement will provide for maximum route flexibility.

The PSX auto reversers have been in use for several weeks now and seem to be functioning perfectly.

The DCS51 was placed in service, in February, to power the fiddle yard and the nearby return loop. I am very satisfied with how this unit and the re-wiring of the nearby return loop have been functioning. This change eliminated the wiring issue that required us to coordinate trains entering the loops at the same time. However, as with any reversing loop or wye installation we must coordinate two trains entering the same reversing section to prevent a shutdown by the auto reverser.

On the last Saturday of February we began us-

ing the computer with JMRI and the PR3 interface connected to the programming track. Mike B. has been of immense help to us while we learn how to use the setup. Thanks Mike!

I have modified a test track fixture, received by donation, to function as an N Scale test and programming track. This new unit will provide a much better tool for our needs.

.... BC

## A JOKE RESULTED IN A LAYOUT

**F**ound in the April 1986 Model Railroader:

"...Richard had tried model railroading as a teenager, but hadn't been active in the hobby for several years when his brother gave him an N scale train set as a joke Christmas gift in 1980. Two days later Richard was cutting plywood for a layout..."

.... BC

## NEW MEMBER REPORT

**W**elcome aboard! New club members!

February 2020:

- Gary James
- Robert (Shep) Sheppard

March 2020

- (none)

.... 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

I begun work on a grade crossing, on the N scale fiddle yard, using the Create and Shape product mentioned back in January. However, the shutdown has prevented me from completing the work. I will report my opinion about the product once that work has been completed.

Here are this month's two offerings for your consideration:

CG Model Trains has new HO & N freight car loads.



*Photos by CG Model Trains*

I find their prices a little rich for my budget, but their products appear very detailed — good for fine scale modelers.

CG Model Trains, 5398 E. Simpson Lake, Vincennes, IN 47591, [CGmodeltrains@gmail.com](mailto:CGmodeltrains@gmail.com), <https://cgmodeltrains.com/>

Bluford Shops announced new Rebuilt War Emergency Hoppers coming to N scale.

Pre-Orders are now open at least through mid-May. Expected delivery is late 2020. Available in 7 road names, 6 car numbers, and undecorated.



*Image by Bluford Shops*

Additionally ...

"We've completely reorganized our In Stock pages to make it a bit easier for you to find what you are interested in. Now you can shop by region to find cars from your favorite railroad and cars from neighboring lines. Try it out here: [http://bluford-shops.com/bluford\\_93\\_011.htm](http://bluford-shops.com/bluford_93_011.htm)

Questions? By all means, drop me a line. Until next time..."

Craig Ross [craig@bluford-shops.com](mailto:craig@bluford-shops.com)

The four regions are: Northern Plains & Northwest, Northeast, South, & Southern Plains & Southwest

Bluford Shops LLC, PO Box 152, Bluford, IL 62810

<http://bluford-shops.com/index.html>



## ON THIS DATE ...

**A**pril 18th, 1934: Burlington Zephyr was dedicated at Broad Street Station, Philadelphia. Miss Marguerite Catsworth christened Zephyr number 9900 with a bottle of champagne. It became the *Pioneer Zephyr* as Burlington expanded its fleet of *Zephyr* train sets.

**A**pril 13th 1869: Patent, No.88929, was issued to George Westinghouse for his air brake design and the state of Pennsylvania granted the Westinghouse Air Brake Co. its charter on Sept. 28.

**A**pril 29th 1873: Eli H. Janney was awarded U.S. Patent 138,405 for his "Improvement in Car-Couplings", the knuckle coupler, in use on railroads today.

Janney's coupler and the Westinghouse air brake might be regarded as the two most significant safety inventions for U.S. railroads between the end of the Civil War and 1900.

**A**pril 30th 1900: Jonathan Luther "Casey" Jones died when his passenger train slammed into a stalled freight train.

.... BC



## RAY'S REPORT

**F**irstly, I am working on a Proto 2000 GP18 that I have in my collection. I bought it at the Puyallup train show back in 2009 and my mentor added a Tsunami decoder inside it. I have been doing mechanical repairs to the split axle gears and doing cosmetic restoration and weathering. I'm currently looking for handrails to finish it up before doing the weathering.

**N**ext, I have been in contact with Broadway Limited Imports about some upgrades. They are releasing their version of Keep-Alive called GoPacks and a new motherboard to make it plug and play. They offered me to swap my current boards from Paragon 2 & 3 locomotives for the new revision if I just send the old one in and cover shipping. I have the board from my Big Boy 4014 in the mail right now. I also asked to have a GoPack sent to me on the return to consolidate shipping.

Lastly, I'm looking to add a sound decoder to my Athearn Genesis Grey SD70ACe and thought about trying TCS WOW Diesel. They sell kits that are used for different locomotives. It includes the Keep Alive built-in, a motherboard with pre soldered resistors for LEDs, the 21 pin sound decoder and speaker with enclosure for one price.

I have asked TCS some technical questions about a special project that I want to do and they told me that its feasible. I'm looking forward to seeing this done.

Links to projects.

TCS ATH-3 (I found this for \$120 reliably)

<https://tcsdcc.com/1770>

Broadway Limited Imports GoPacks page

<https://www.broadway-limited.com/gopackpowercontinuitycapacitorpackwith-plug.aspx>

...Raymond H



## STEVE'S STRAIGHTS

Former member Steve Strauss remembers...

Greetings from Malvern and Ouachita Valley (Arkansas) environs.

Since my last *Steve's Straights*, the COVID-19 virus outbreak has taken over the headlines. Because of the outbreak, McCain Mall in North Little Rock has been closed for an indefinite period. I hope the same thing doesn't happen at Kitsap Mall, and possibly block access to the club's layout venue.

As I said last month, March 2 was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burlington Northern.



This photo shows my BN caboose with a 40-foot boxcar from each of the four railroads that comprised BN.



I scratch built this BN freight house model in 1976. This photo was taken on the club layout at Millie's in 1978, shortly before the layout was dismantled and the club went modular. It was also used on my module from 1979 to 1985. I later retrofitted the model to the pre-BN era, when the prototype was Navy gray.

I missed a great photo op one time in Bremerton in the early BN days. There was a consist of four locomotives, with one in each of the four predecessor road names, parked at the BN freight house. Whether that was intentional or a coincidence, I don't know. But they likely would have been gone by the time I could go home to get my camera and stop to buy slide film.

This is about it. Stay safe, stay home and catch up on housework.

.... YIMRR, Steve



Prototype photos submitted by Peter Bieber

## A LOCOMOTIVE PROGRAMMING AND SPEED MATCHING SETUP

I recently purchased two new N scale locomotives. Both are Fox Valley Models GP-60s. They were supplied as DCC ready. Just by chance I had one of the appropriate decodes on hand. I had to order the second one.

First about the locomotives. I made the decision to purchase these particular models after watching a video review by Mike Fifer at Fifer Hobby Supplies: <https://www.fiferhobby.com/>.

I have found the locomotives to be everything Mike claimed and I am very please with them. I should also mention that dealing with Fifer Hobby Supply as always been a good experience.

Now on to the speed matching setup I put together. A couple of years ago I laid a loop of code 80 track on a 2x4 foot piece of 3/4 inch plywood to use as a test track. After receiving the two new locos I needed to speed match them and thus I needed a more convenient setup rather than the ragtag, wires everywhere mess, I had tried to use.

The plan was to have my computer running JMRI DecoderPro and a Zephyr command station both available and easily switch between them while attempting to follow Mike B.'s handout (<http://www.bnmrr.org/handouts/tsunami-speed-settings.pdf>).

The complete setup is seen in the accompanying photo. The computer and the command station outputs are connected to a DPDT toggle switch mounted on top of the red box. The connections are made by use of spring-loaded terminals normally used on the back of stereo speakers. Also visible is an Accutrack II speedometer available from Litchfield Station: <https://www.litchfieldstation.com/>.

The last component is a Digitrax PR3 computer interface which allows DecoderPro to communicate with the decoders.

First order of business is to run one of the locos for several minutes to allow it to warm up. Then use Mike's procedure to set the decoder CVs to achieve your desired performance. This is done by alternating between setting CVs with DecoderPro and running the locos with the Zephyr to check the results. I continue this back and forth process until I am satisfied with the loco's performance. I then repeat the process with the next loco until I am satisfied with it.

It is easy enough to place both locos on the test track, setup a consist, and then test run to evaluate their performance running as a pair.

....BC



Above: Accutrack II indicating a scale speed of 59 MPH as the loco moves through it. .

Right: The complete programming track and equipment setup.

