



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

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



Waiting for the next train. Photo submitted by Mike Bay

CLUBHOUSE CALENDAR

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

FEBRUARY

- 4th..... Breakfast social meeting at All Star Lanes, 8:30 am.
- 4th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 9th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 11th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 16th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 18th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 23rd..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.
- 23rd..... All hands work party 6pm.
- 25th..... Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

THE FLIMSY BOARD

Official Publication of the Bremerton Northern Model Railroad

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.
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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/>

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greeting all,

Thank you all for coming to the Business meeting tonight. It was an interesting meeting. I think a long misunderstanding was cleared up. WE are one Club made up of smaller groups and clear paths of communications are vital.



Our next Business Meeting will be the first of our work parties. I have no problem if we start after the Open House and go until 8. Come in when you want and work until you want to leave. Make sure you fill in the Volunteer Sign in Sheet. For those that didn't attend last night's meeting, here is the status of two of our most important goals. 501(c)3 paperwork has been submitted. Trish and I will be meeting with the mall on our lease on Monday. Breakfast is Saturday at All Star Lanes at 8:30ish

Here is the work list and the 2023 clubhouse meeting schedule for 2023. Of course the meeting schedule is subject to change as conditions warrant.

.... *Bill H.*

The Bremerton Northern List of Things To Do

1. Go through paint in Back Room and dispose of bad and sell good
2. Go through the transformers and check and see if they are operational. Dispose of the bad ones. Save the best of the good ones and sell the rest.
3. Send the Paul Neumann Slide collection to Scale Rail?

The Kitsap Western List Of Things To Do

1. Level the layout. Starting at Geezer Gulch.
2. Identify track problem areas.
3. Fix track problems
4. Create Caboose track in yard.
5. Add turnout to Avery Coal Siding.
6. Wire RR Crossing lights in Dansville.
7. Wire electric building lights (including designing circuits for Ghost Busters) and sound modules.
8. Install Street Lights in Dansville.

9. Fix windmill at Humptulips.
10. Dust Layout and buildings.
11. Refresh scenery. Replace broken trees.
12. Vacuum Tunnel.
13. Lessons on programing Turntable
14. Run Op sessions.
15. Ballast the track.

The New Operations Modules

1. Complete the drawings.
2. Draw Plan on Foam.
3. Create Wiring plan.

BNMR 2023 Meeting Schedule

February 2 - Business Meeting

February 23 - All Hands work party.

March 2 - All Hands work party.

March 30 -All Hands work party.

April 6 - All Hands work party.

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April 27 - All Hands work party.

May 4 - All Hands work party.

May 25 - BOD meeting

June 1 - Business meeting

June 29 - All Hands work party.

July 6 - All Hands work party.

Jul 27 - BOD meeting.

August 3 - Business meeting

August 31 - All Hands work party.

September 7 - All Hands work party.

October 5 - All Hands work party.

October 26 - BOD meeting

November 2 - Business meeting (Officer nominations)

November 30 - BOD meeting

December 7 - Business meeting (Officer elections)

December 28 - BOD meeting?

N SCALE DIVISION REPORT

We continue to make progress on our scratch building project. All of us are learning some techniques, gaining experience, and having fun doing so.

Working as a group we are building camaraderie and eating more cookies than we should be but oh well!

Two weeks ago I replaced a turnout on the Midway Interchange Siding that had a closure rail break free of the throw bar. I was forced to use a longer turnout than the original, but it works and looks alright.

We have been using four different turnout models on the modules. At this point I think it is fair to say that there are no exceptionally good N Scale code 80 turnout available to purchase!

So far the most reliable have been Atlas Customline #8s, however the two installed have only been in use for about 6 months.

This past week I installed a second PSX-AR on the Tunnel Mountain Loop module, separated the two loops electrically, and instead a Tortoise switch machine on the inner loop wye turnout. The Tortoise is controlled by the PSX-AR in the same manner as the wye turnout on the Junction Loop module.

.... BC



NTRAK AT 50 CONTINUES

The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the NTRAK standard and of N scale modular model railroading began at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 28, 2023 at the Amherst Railroad Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. On behalf of NRAIL I sounded the horn to officially open the show, to which the steam whistle on the Edaville Railway steam loco responded.

Next came the initial run of a special train hauled by the Cotton Brute. The consist was a Micro-Trains RPO car specially decorated by Jeff Glowers of Valley NTRAK of CT, followed by the inspection train (2x author cars, diner "Terry Nathan", Pullman "Benjamin Davis", and Business car "James FitzGerald"). Finally came 4x NTRAK & Western Kadee/Micro Trains hoppers that were part of the record breaking 560 car train pulled by Cotton Brute in 1984.

A scale-size banner proclaiming the 50th Anniversary was placed above the tracks traversed by the Cotton Brute. The banner was provided by Valley NTRAK.

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After the initial Cotton Brute run around the layout a second run was made, this time with club cars — Brooklyn NTRAK, Valley NTRAK, and Altoona Association of Model Railroaders. Then, the Cotton Brute was run by several operators with various consists the rest of the show.

On Sunday morning Cotton Brute ran on the T-TRAK layout at the show, on a special loop with large radius curves. Due to clearance restrictions on T-TRAK layouts in future the special train will be hauled by the NTRAK FT diesels.

Several people came by the layout just to see the Cotton Brute. Some were not even N scalers.

The layout we operated on was a consortium made up of Brooklyn NTRAK, Long Island NTRAK, Valley NTRAK of CT, Torrington Area Model Railroaders, New Jersey Southern and Central New Jersey.

A good weekend for NRAIL. Lots of photos and videos available at various places, including Facebook and ZoomTRAK on February 11.

The celebration of “50” will continue at the following events:

- 2023 National N Scale Convention, Reno NV, June 14 – 18, 2023
- 2023 NMRA National Convention & National Train Show, Grapevine TX, August 20 – 27, 2023
- 2023 Altoona N Scale Weekend, Altoona PA, September 16 – 17, 2023.

A special for 2023 — a new membership to NRAIL is half price. Use the code on the website.

Another special for 2023 — purchase a T-TRAK caboose through the NRAIL Store and receive a free one-year NRAIL membership.

Planning continues for the main celebration at NMRA in Grapevine Texas in August. The NMRA has granted NRAIL the space we re-

quested for our layouts at the National Train Show, so now we can do detailed planning. To submit a module for the Grapevine layouts go to NRAIL - National Train Show 2023 Module Registration.

.... *John Wallis*
NRAIL President



Prototype photos by Russell West

THE RAILROAD HOBBY SHOW LARGEST RAILROAD-THEMED TRADE SHOW IN AMERICA

The following article is reprinted with the permission of Jeff Gross and RINEWSTODAY.com.

It was first published on January 26th, 2023.



With the world returning to normal and 2023 is showing signs of optimism, the model train hobby is improving as well. This coming weekend the Amherst Railway Society will host their annual Model Railroad extravaganza at the Big E Expo Center in West Springfield Massachusetts.

The Big E show is considered by thousands to be the Queen Mum of all train shows in the Northeast. There are four large buildings housing dealers and operating layouts by the hundreds. All the model trains scales are covered – from live steam to G Scale used in outdoor model railroads, Standard Gauge, which was Lionel, and Ives premium scale pre-WWII, O scale which has been popular since the 1910's and is still growing today as a result of numerous improvements in digital control and various realistic design improvements in rail cars. HO scale is another popular scale due to the fact one can get many trains in a small space. Then there is N scale which is currently the fastest growing scale due to its small size. Many folks who live in apartments find this size very appealing. Last, but not least, is Z scale

often referred to as micro trains. These trains are very popular in Europe and found a niche in the American market as well.

Looking to get into the hobby there are hundreds of ready to run sets in all scales available to purchase. Parents looking for some quality hobby/bonding time with your youngsters, this is the place to start. Getting into the hobby has no gender nor age limits. I encountered a few women in their 50s and 60s getting into the hobby as of late. Looks like book clubs or Marjon clubs may become a thing of the past. Model Railroading does indeed bring out the artist in all of us.

What is great about attending a model train show aside from all the sights and sounds is the fact that when one makes a purchase, they take the trains, scenery, and everything they need home with them on the spot. Many of the Internet buying issues are avoided.

Issues like “I’m sorry your item is out of stock”, receiving an item damaged or lost, (one can thoroughly inspect an item before purchase), and the risk of your credit card information being stolen is eliminated. Also important to



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many buyers is that what you purchased can be operated that very same night.

Model Train operators take note. Deluxe Materials sells a tracking cleaning solvent that is second to none. This cleaner removes all dirt and oils from track with just a pair of swipes. I have never in my 55 years of Model Railroading seen a cleaner work this well. Your track is now clean, but I bet your engine wheels are not. This cleaner also cleans the engine drive wheels easily. No more days of using a Dremel wire wheel to clean the wheels. Just a little track cleaner on a Q-tip and the grease and grime comes right off (sounds like a Mr. Clean commercial). Often times an engine that shows no sign of life when even the headlight doesn't work, will power right up and take off using this cleaner. This is by no means an exaggeration. Don't forget to clean the wheels on your rail cars as well. Deluxe Materials has a collection of products to assist those folks who enjoy crafting their own model railroad scenery, and DIY-ers.



Blackstone Valley DVD's sells an excellent collection of DVDs entailing numerous railroads from around the country. Many Class 1 Railroads are videoed on DVD and Blu Ray. Many short line and tourist line are on film as well. If you have young ones that are interested in trains, this is a great way to expand upon their interest. Give them a snack and fire up the DVD player and they can enjoy the sights and sounds of real railroading. It will give Mom and Dad a little quiet time as well.



Also, in the Young Building is a good friend, Bill Leminen. Bill has a large selection of Menard's Specialty Trains. Menard's offers unique buildings such as operating fire stations, operating Power Plants UFO scenes. Menard's also has a large grouping of nicely decorated rolling stock in a variety of colors. This writer bought 2 Tide detergents' advertising cars from Bill last year and they are extremely colorful. Bill will also have a variety of Lionel trains, Lionel Ready to Run Sets and HO trains as well.



Crow River Products is a Rhode Island based company that has a vast array of detail parts and accessories in a variety of scales. This writer bought a pair of O scale detail parts from them last year and was very impressed with the precision that goes into the manufacturing of these pieces. Want to have a very realistic Model Railroad? These highly detailed pieces from Crow River are just what you need. Crow River's unique pieces make a model railroad come to life.

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Lerro Productions has an excellent variety of prints of fine art he has painted. The prints come in either framed or unframed. The framed prints are extremely fine crafted with high quality matting, an extra bonus that only Peter Lerro adds to his fine art. This writer has one excellent framed Maine Central piece that is adorning his living room since the Amherst show of 2022. If you are a wood working artist, he has unframed prints that are numbered and ready for framing. If one really wants to splurge, one can hire Peter to paint a landscape portrait of their favorite railroad scene. For details on that you will need to see Peter himself.



Another Peter owns New England Railroad and like all of the above, is in the Young building. Peter has quite the assortment of Mike's Train House, Lionel, and Ready Made Trains for sale. For the Veterans out there, New England RR has a variety of military themed rolling stock. This writer acquired some fine USCG freight cars from Peter. Yes, there is a little military bias

there. Peter also has other advertising cars like this colorful Necco Wafer car.



Precious Escapes Photography has a beautiful collection of scenic Railroad photography. Various photos from around New England and also around the USA can be found in the owner "Bill's" display. Also, on display and for sale are a collection of various railroad drinking glasses and other railroadiana to be had. Have a special Railroad place you would like photographed? Ask Bill I am sure he can accommodate you. This is just a small sampling of vendors in the Young building at the Big E expo center.

Amherst has three other buildings filled with vendors and operating layouts and a children's center in the Mallory building. Plan on a full day there. Hours are 9-5 pm Saturday and 10-5 pm Sunday. A full day will allow you to see most of the show. If you can swing the time, 2 days will allow you to see the entire show at a leisurely pace. Advice: If you see something you like, buy it as it may not be there if you wait to come back. Attendance ranges from 18,000-23,000. With so many internet companies laying off tens of thousands of employees, (there are allegations that now even eBay is in financial trouble) this is a great time to experience going to a train show or picking up where you left off.

The Railroad Hobby Show is the largest railroad-themed trade show in America. The event occu-

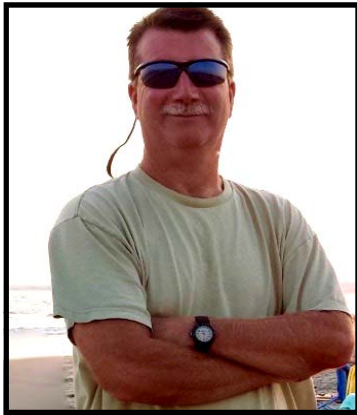
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pies 400,000 square feet in four buildings on the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds.

Link to this article: <https://rinewstoday.com/the-railroad-hobby-show-largest-railroad-themed-trade-show-in-america-jeff-gross/>

Jeffrey "Jeff" Gross spent 21 years as an Analytical Chemist at the USCG R&D Center in



Groton, Connecticut, Woods Hole Laboratories, and Helix Technologies. Changing careers is a "great learning experience for everyone", Jeff says, and I'm an avid outdoorsman and conservationist, a student of the sciences, and the world. The US holds too many wonders not to take a chance and explore them".

Jeff is the Model Train and Railroad entrepreneur. Proud Golden Retriever owner. Ultra strong Second Amendment Advocate and Constitutionalist. "Determined seeker of the truth".

Jeff is a RIFGPA Legislative and Legal Officer, Freshwater Chairman, NRA Liaison.

His subjects include Outdoors, Second Amendment, Model Railroading, and Whimsical.

He can be reached at: trainsbythe144@aol.com

'Thank You' to Jeff and RINEWSTODAY.com for permission to reprint this story.

.... BC



AMERICAN FLYER OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Background: Scale 1:64 or a one inch figure is 64" or 5'4" tall. Some matchbox vehicles are 1:64 most are not. Buildings are sold as S/O (*scale*) by Plasticville.

Engine power is a universal ac/dc motor 0 to 15 volts.

Reverse switch is a rotating drum so the sequence is on: forward, off, on: neutral, off, on: forward. It is usually in the tender.

Power-ON is a power strip under the front edge of the layout. There are two transformers - one each for the inner track, the other for the outer track. Both are 100 watt.

Rotate the red handle on the transformer and an engine will start. The tape marker indicated about 80% power AKA speed.

My attempt at an operating yard in connected to the inner track. Switch controller is green for a clear main line, red indicates yard access.

Accessories:

Big red button labeled PUSH ME blows the whistle.

Controller with red and green buttons: One rotates the crane Clockwise, the other Counter Clockwise. The red magnet is energized as long as a button is depressed.

Drum controller: clockwise turn on and off.

Uncoupler button activates both uncouplers.

Unloader Button activates the rail so the unloader car dumps.

.... Jim Hochstein

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

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

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

Pacific Model Loggers' Congress

March 11

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

Info: pacificmodelloggerscongress.org/

United Northwest Model Railroad Club Show and Swap Meet

February 25 & 26

Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe WA

www.facebook.com/groups/135356321819

Lewis County Model Railroad Club Show and Meet

Saturday & Sunday, April 1st & 2nd

\$5.00 admission, 6foot swap meet tables \$25.00
each

Southwest Washington Fairgrounds, 1909 S.
Gold St, Centralia WA

Saturday 10 to 4 and Sunday 10 to 2

Contact Ted Livermore 360-269-0921 or ted-
strains@lewiscounty.com

River City Modelers Train Club Model Train Show and Swap Meet

Sunday, March 5

9:30 pm to 3:30 pm, \$6.00 CASH admission

Spokane County Fair & Expo Center, Gate G
404 North Havana, Spokane WA

Info: Shirley Sample at 509-991-2317 (cell) or
509-292-8332 by email at shirley@busnws.com

Willamette Model RR Club Annual Swap Meet.

March 11

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

Info: wmrrc.com



Prototype photo by Pete Bieber

NEW MEMBER REPORT

No new members in January