

# THE FLIMSY BOARD



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

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

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As mentioned in previous issues, point of this club's newsletter is to provide a place for important information to be presented to the members and for the members to share they efforts through words and photos.

Please feel free to send comments and photos of works you or others have done at the clubhouse or at home, which might include models, scenery, backdrop paintings, prototype photos of motive power, rolling stock, etc. Anything train related or that we rail fans might appreciate.

I have had several members provide materials and ideas for this and future publication already. If you desire to contribute material (text or photos) for publication, refer to the masthead for where and when to submit material. Thanks!.

*BS (Shep)*

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# THE FLIMSY BOARD SUMMARY

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: Bob “Shep” Shepperd

Submit Contributions to: [shepperd0718@comcast.net](mailto:shepperd0718@comcast.net)

Submittal deadline is the 30th of the month, publication date is the weekend after the business meeting.  
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Unless otherwise noted photos are by the Editor.

## MEETINGS NOTICE:

**Business meetings** are held monthly in the clubhouse starting at 6:00p.m. on the first Thursday of the month.

Board meetings are held periodically in the clubhouse on the last Thursday of the month.

“Social” Club Breakfasts are held at All Star Lanes in Silverdale starting at 8:30 on the First Saturday of the month.

**Clinics** are held on the second Monday of the month at the “Community Room” (in the mall right next to Dick’s Sporting Goods).

## OFFICERS:

President: Bill Hupé

Vice President: Jerry Enders

Secretary: Trish Williams

Treasurer: Bert Cripe

Directors: Mark Stephens

Pete Bieber

Jim Hochstein

Librarian: Tom Barrett

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

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

**Welcome our new members!**

Scott Hartley, Robert Morris, and Alex Sheppard



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings all,

First and foremost, I again want to thank you all for helping me fulfil my lifelong dream of having a railroad to work on and run my trains.

We have lost good members recently to time conflicts. Tom and Karen Jordan were great members and Karen's work on weathering is epic. A business in the new module will bear their name. Mike Johnson and John Forsythe will also be immortalized in a similar way.

New members Ed Patterson and George Li have agreed to build and operate a new Lionel Layout.

Mark Stephens is continuing his work on the industrial switching portion of the layout. He recently completed the power drops and tested the track. Next up are the tortoise Switch machines.

Tom Barrett is providing technical assistance with track changes. We have lots of new books to read. Don't hesitate to check one out.

The N-scalers are doing wonderful work on their layout as well. Shep Shepperd is working on a module making track changes and scenery.

Jim Hochstein "S" scale layout is fantastic, recently he added a yard extension to the layout.

Trish Williams is continuing to make progress on the Marklin layout.

I'm going to in March begin reworking the Young Engineer's layout. I'm going to tear everything out and start over. New track plan, mountains, river, town site, and whatever we think will look good. New member Bob Morris will be helping. Actually, everyone is invited to help and learn

*Bill*

## A BIT OF HISTORY

I joined the club just about a year prior to us moving into the mall. Of course, our current location is the third within the mall. As most of you probably know, before we had a spot in the mall we did not have a "clubhouse" but rather the HO layout's "home" was in a 28' trailer purchased about 2010. Before our "clubhouse" in the mall, the HO layout was housed in the trailer and hauled to an event for display, and then "repackaged" into the trailer and stored until the next event and the process repeated itself. As you can imagine, this was a lot of work and required commitment of the membership. Prior to the current trailer, the HO layout was hauled in an earlier trailer; and, there were several prior versions of the current HO layout.

The trailer is currently being stored at Tamara Whipple's place. Due to its age and deferred maintenance, the current plan is to liquidate it.

*Shep*

# BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD CALENDAR

## FEBRUARY 2024

- 1st..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 1st..... Business Meeting starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 3rd..... “Social” Club Breakfast (All Star Lanes in Silverdale starting at 8:30 a.m.).
- 3rd..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 8th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 10th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 12th..... Monday Clinic (Turnouts) in the “Community Room” starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 15th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 17th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 22nd..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 22nd..... Board Meeting starting at 5:30 pm.
- 24th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 29th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).

## MARCH 2024

- 2nd..... “Social” Club Breakfast (All Star Lanes in Silverdale starting at 8:30 a.m.).
- 2nd..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 7th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 7th..... Business Meeting starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 9th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 11th..... Monday Clinic in the “Community Room” starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 14th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 16th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 21st..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 23rd..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 28th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 28th..... Board Meeting starting at 5:30 pm.
- 30th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).

## ARRIL 2024

- 4th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 4th..... Business Meeting starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 6th..... “Social” Club Breakfast (All Star Lanes in Silverdale starting at 8:30 a.m.).
- 6th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 8th..... Monday Clinic in the “Community Room” starting at 5:30 p.m.
- 11th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 13th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).
- 18th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 20th..... Board Meeting starting at 5:30 pm.
- 25th..... Thursday Open House (12-4).
- 27th..... Saturday Open House (12-4).

## HO DIVISION REPORT

Except for perhaps your new members, the HO layout's new "Port Hupé" Industrial district continues to take shape. Currently the track has been laid.

The current plan is for all the turnout this "Port Hupé" Industrial district to be electrically operated using Circuitron slo-mo switch machines. So Mark has been busy working to get the wiring installed for the power for all these.

*Bob "Shep" Shepperd*



*A tragic accident on the HO layout. No injuries were reported (so it didn't make the 5 o'clock news).*

*Photographer Unknown*

*Shep*

## N DIVISION REPORT

Looking to the future, the division held a meeting in January to discuss building four new modules that can be switched out with existing modules. The purpose of these new modules will be twofold. First to design a new arrangement of the three tracks that will give more interesting track alignments both for running trains and viewing as they move through the scenery. A Second reason is to provide opportunities for members to learn new skills in track laying, scenery, layout planning, and wiring.

Each member present at the meeting was given a drawing of a possible track arrangement to study. This was not meant to be the plan to be built, but instead a suggestion to consider and use as a basis for each member's ideas. We will take a couple of months to brainstorm before coming up with a "final" track arrangement.

Jack has purchased a module kit which will be used as a pattern to build two of the new modules. I have a module built to the point on adding track. The existing modules that will be removed from the layout will be placed in storage for later use.

On another front, Shep is working on the module next to Tunnel Mountain. He is adding a propane distribution business. Not only will this add another customer to the layout, but he is using this work to earn the Prototype AP certificate.

Last month I reworked the Red track on the Corner Lake module to repair a spot that has given some of us trouble for a long time. Additionally, I worked the track inside Tunnel Mountain to correct a bad section there. Both jobs seem to have been successful.

*Bert Cripe*



## SHEP'S: DID YOU KNOW?...

As many of you may know, I (attempt to) model cars built prior to 1920. In order to do this, I found it necessary or do some research on brake systems: what was used and how it developed over time into what is used today.

Originally, car brakes were set by hand by brakeman, or occasionally brakemen. A brakeman was positioned on top of the car (also called a wagon) where he set the brakes by turning a wheel which mechanically caused brake shoes to rub on the wheels, resulting in friction to slow the train. The wheel, at least on box and stock cars, was located roughly waist high at one of the ends of the car.

Since there was not a brakeman for each car, the brakeman would have to hustle from car to car to set the brake. A walkway (probably more of a running board) was attached to the center of the top of these cars to facilitate travel from car to car. Although the brakeman was signaled with direction by the loco driver, a successful brakeman in those days needed a good knowledge of the route being followed to anticipate when and where to apply the brakes. Needless to say, this was a hazardous occupation; there were many workman casualties.

The first real improvement came in 1860 with the invention of *vacuum brakes* by a Connecticut railroad mechanic named Nehemiah Hodge. The vacuum brake is technically limited to atmospheric pressure (14.7 psi) but due to practical considerations, was really limited to 7 or 8 psi. Consequently it provided low braking power. Performance depended greatly on atmospheric conditions and really only worked at elevations below 3000' above sea level.

With this system, a vacuum was created by a steam engine with an *ejector*. This was preferred over a reciprocating pump as it is simpler (has no moving parts) and a vacuum is easier to produce than pressure.

The vacuum sent from car to car by a *train line* made up of pipes below each car and hoses between cars.

The ejector produces a vacuum in system. When the brakes are applied, atmospheric air is allowed into the train line pushing the piston into the area still under vacuum. This piston movement causes the brake shoes to be applied to the wheels.

However, the biggest shortcoming with the vacuum system is its low braking power and the fact that an accidental or unexpected leak or disconnection in the train line disables the ability to apply braking. This can and has often caused a *run-away train* leading to damage, injury, and fatalities. Vacuum brakes are obsolete.

The next real improvement came in 1869 with the invention of *straight air brake* by George Westinghouse.

The next real improvement came in 1869 with the invention of *straight air brake* by George Westinghouse. In this system, pressurized air from an air compressor in the locomotive is sent by a train line from car to car. Today the connection of a hose from one car to another is accomplished with a device called a Gladhand Connector.

*To be continued next month....*

Shep



*Our trailer for hauling the HO layout, stored at Tamara Whipple's place.*

Photo by Tamara Whipple

At the end of December we had our annual dinner meeting at the Pancake House in Bremerton.

*Photos are by the Editor*



Mark Stephens was awarded the 2023 Member of the Year Award and Bert Cripe was awarded the Presidential Award.

Photos by the Editor

# BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD

To all model railroaders wherever you may  
be:

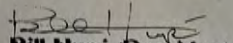
Greetings! Let it be known that:

## Mark Stephens

For his efforts in supporting the club, serving as  
Vice President, Kitsap Western Superintendent,  
and his efforts to complete the Industrial  
switching addition to the Kitsap Western has  
been selected by his fellow members as:

### 2023 MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Given at Bremerton, Washington on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January in  
the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

  
Bill Hupé, President

# BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD

To all model railroaders wherever you may  
be:

Greetings! Let it be known that:

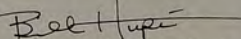
## Bert Cripe

In recognition of his efforts in supporting the club,  
serving as Treasurer, N-Trak Superintendent,  
past editor for the Club's Flimsy Board, and his  
efforts to create Model Railroad Museum he has  
received the:

### PRESIDENTIAL AWARD

2023 AD

Given at Bremerton, Washington on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of January in  
the year Two Thousand Twenty-Four.

  
Bill Hupé, President





## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

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

### Elma's 3rd Annual Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show

Saturday & Sunday, **February 10 & 11**,  
10 am to 4 pm and 10 am to 3 pm (Sunday)

\$5.00, children under 12 free with paid adult, free parking and food concession on site

Saturday early bird special admission 9 am to 10 am \$10.00

Grays Harbor County Fair Grounds,  
Elma, WA

Info: 360-482-2651

### 31st Washington State Model Train Show & Marketplace

Saturday & Sunday, **February 24 & 25**,  
Doors Open 10 AM Both Days

\$10.00 Donation, children under 12 free with paid adult, free parking and food concession on site

Sponsored by:  
United Northwest Model Railroad Club  
& Snohomish County 4-H Foundation

Evergreen State Fairgrounds,  
Monroe, WA

In Evergreen Event Center, the Pavilion,  
& the 4-H Bldg.

Info: [www.unwclub.com](http://www.unwclub.com)

### 7<sup>th</sup> Division PNR Convention



**Wednesday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**  
to  
**Sunday May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Meet and Greet Social**  
**Self-Guided Layout Tours**  
**Escorted Prototype Tours**  
**Clinics, Contests, Displays**  
**AP Evaluation**  
**Modelling with the Master**  
**Buffet Banquet with Keynote Speaker**  
**Non-Rail Programme**  
**OP Sessions**  
**Raffle**

**Sheraton Guildford Hotel**  
**Surrey, BC Canada**

### LK&R's Spring Train Show

Model Train and Toy Swap Meet

Saturday & Sunday  
May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> 10 am - 4 pm

**THREE RIVERS MALL, KELSO**

