

BNMR is a 100% NMRA
Member Club



2026 Logo



ca. 2000 — 2026 Logo

Historic Logos



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Former Editor Bert Cripe returns to the job after a 30 month absence.

Our 'Flimsy' is our prime method of keeping you, our members, informed of club business, events, and members' activities. Not only does it serve that important function, but it is required by our governing documents as defined in House Rules, Section XI. 2a: *"The newsletter is published monthly and provided to all members in good standing by electronic means."* Section XI. 2b: *"The newsletter will include a listing of the Officers of BNMR, a schedule of BNMR activities for the next three months, and any such other information as may be consistent with the operation of BNMR and in the best interests of the members."*

Why is the newsletter called the flimsy and what is a form 19? These terms stem from the operating methods railroads used prior to the current 'modern era'. Form 19 was sometimes known as a 'flimsy' due to the type of the paper used.

From AI on the internet:

"Form 19 orders were typed or handwritten on very thin, paper (often called "flimsies" or "tissues") using carbon paper to generate multiple copies for the conductor and engineer."

"Delivery on the Fly: Station agents would clip the Form 19 onto a train order hoop (a "Y" shaped stick). As the train sped by the station, crew members would reach out and scoop the paperwork off the hoop."

The Librarian position is vacant - Please consider taking on this job!

....BC



THE FLIMSY BOARD

Official Publication of the Bremerton Northern Model Railroad

PO Box 1101, Silverdale WA 98383

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 MMR
Submit Contributions to: bert@wavecable.com

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Unless otherwise noted photos are by the Editor.

MEETINGS NOTICE:

Business meetings are held periodically on the second Saturday of the month in the clubhouse. Board meetings are held periodically in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of the month. The January meeting is our annual dinner meeting held at a local restaurant. Refer to the clubhouse calendar on page 3.

OFFICERS:

President: Bill Hupé
Vice President: Jerry Enders
Secretary: Trish Williams
Treasurer: Bert Cripe
Directors: Jim Hochstein , Mark Stephens,
..... and Pete Bieber
Librarian: vacant
Web Site: <http://www.bnmrr.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1988490354736510/>



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CLUB ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Dates and times are subject to change — consult the website (<https://www.bnmrr.org/calendar.html>) for updates.

In accordance with new bylaws and house rules the Flimsy will now carry the next three months schedule in this calendar.

JULY

2nd - Open House

4th - Open House

11th - Business Meeting

16th - Open House

23th - Open House

25th - Open House

4th - Social breakfast—Canceled

9th - Open House

11th - Open House

18th - Open House

25th - Board Meeting

30th - Open House

AUGUST

1st - Social breakfast

6th - Open House

8th - Open House

15th - Open House

22nd - Open House

29th - Board Meeting

1st - Open House

8th - Business Meeting

13th - Open House

20th - Open House

27th - Open House

29th - Open House

SEPTEMBER

3rd - Open House

5th - Open House

12th - Business Meeting

17th - Open House

24th - Open House

26th - Open House

5th - Social breakfast

10th - Open House

12th - Open House

19th - Open House

26th - Board Meeting



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



I want to thank all of you who participate in the open houses. Keep up the good work. As of right now we are safe in our current home. I'll be signing the new lease soon.

This issue marks Bert taking over the Flimsy from Christina. Thank you Christina for volunteering.

Vern Shook has called me a few times; his family has moved him to a Care Facility in the Tri-Cities. I just received notification that Steve Struass, a long-time member and contributor to the Flimsy, passed away on April 1 in his home state of Arkansas.

Volunteering. Thank you Peter for cleaning the windows and Frank for vacuuming. There are several more opportunities to help the club around the clubhouse. These are non-open house and for the most part are simple tasks. Dusting the shelves, cleaning the head (bathroom) once a week, organizing and labeling the small parts bins in the backroom, and going through all the buildings in the backroom and determining sell, donate (Goodwill) or throw away. I'm sure we can identify more moving forward. I just thought of others: taking the dead batteries to the appropriate disposal location and the Goodwill donations to them.

That's all for now..

Time to move this train on down the line.

.... *Bill*

P.S. Saturday July 4th. **No Breakfast!** Open House 12-4



ON THE NEWSSTAND...

As a service to our members, the club has subscriptions to three modeling related magazines: *Model Railroader*, *Model Railroad Craftsman*, and *Narrow Gauge & Short Line Gazette*. The current copies of each plus 3 or 4 back issues are in display holders located between the workbench and the HO layout switching yard. MR and RMC are published monthly, while NG&SLG is published every other month.

From time to time articles considered of special interest to club members will be highlighted in this feature.

Another good resource is the Model Railroad Hobbyist website (<https://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>) with two versions of its PDF magazine (free & paid). Of special interest in the June issue (free version) is *Upgrade Older Cheap Model Railcars*. Twenty-five pages of detailed ideas.

.... *BC*

IN REGARD TO NMRA DUES AND BNMR OPERATING FEES

Since becoming treasurer I have attempted to establish a 'baseline' of each members' operational fees (op fees) account and NMRA dues for those members who choose to pay their NMRA dues through the club each year.

Yet it seems my efforts have not made it clear how op fees and dues work let alone the status of each member's account. The club requires each regular club member to be a member of the NMRA. The NMRA dues are currently \$68.00 per year (\$92.00 with printed magazine).

The club pays its bills by collecting operating fees (op fees) from each member, currently \$180.00 per year for the regular member category. That equals \$15.00 per month.

As treasurer I keep a record of each members' balance of op fees and dues. At the end of each month I subtract \$15.00 from each member's account (\$1.00 for family members). Thus if you are told you have a balance of \$30.00 in your account as of the first of the next month, you are covered for the following two months. Think of it like a checking account with \$30.00 in it and you must write a check for \$15.00 each month. At the end of the second month you will not have any money left in your account until you add some money.

I don't know how else to explain it. I intend to inform each member once a quarter of the balance of op fees in his/hers account.

If on the other hand you pay your NMRA dues through the club, you must also have that \$68.00 (\$10.00 for family members) extra in your account by the time I pay the NMRA dues for you. That will be in the first week of your anniversary month. I will include your anniversary month in your quarterly report for the convenience of all members regardless of how the dues are paid.

Remember we secure our liability insurance through the NMRA by having all members as members of the NMRA. We are required to submit a statement, certified by the club's president, that all club members are current with their NMRA dues. That statement includes each member's name, NMRA number, and expiration date. Failure to meet this requirement or allow a club member to stay on our rolls with not being paid up NMRA can result in cancellation of our liability insurance.

In any event, I will **bug** you about keeping both your op fees and dues current! If you are still not sure of how this works - contact me!

.... BC



NEW MEMBER

Welcome our most recent new member:

Danny Guthrie



*Puget Sound & Pacific GP40.
Photo by Pete Bieber*

UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

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

Lynden Lions Club Model Train & Toy Show
Northwest Washington Fairgrounds, Lynden
Saturday 9 to 5 & Sunday 10 to 4
October 3rd & 4th
Website: <https://lyndentrainshow.com>

River City Modelers Train Club Model Train
Show and Swap Meet
Sunday, October 11
9:30 am to 3:30 pm, \$8.00 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
Info at: www.rivercitymodelers.org

Lewis County Model Railroad Club Show
SW Washington Fairgrounds
2555 N National Ave. Chehalis, WA 98532
Saturday 10 to 4 & Sunday 10 to 2
October 17th & 18th
Info: Ted at tedstrains@lewiscounty.com



Prototype photo by Russell West

Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club
Swap Meet
November 14th, Saturday
Kent Commons Community Center, 525 4th Ave
N, Kent, WA 98032
Admission: \$10.00 per person; kids 12
and under get in free
Info at: www.bemrrc.org

Longview, Kelso & Rainier Model Railroad
Club Spring Model Train and Toy Swap
Meet
November 21st, Saturday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Cowlitz County Event Center, 1900 7th Avenue,
Longview, Washington, 98632
Info at: <https://lkrtrains.yolasite.com> or contact
Howard Flick at 360-751-7276 or email at
flickh@yahoo.com



Looking Ahead to 2027

Great Train Shows
January 2 & 3 Boise, ID
January 9 & 10 Ridgefield, WA
January 16 & 17 Puyallup, WA
January 23 & 24 Kennewick, WA
February 21 & 21 Sacramento, CA
March 6 & 7 Vallejo, CA
Website: www.greattrainshow.com/

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM REPORT

The National Model Railroad Association Achievement Program, Modeling With The Masters, and Merit Award Evaluations.

These three programs form, perhaps, the most powerful tools available to you to learn the art and craft of the model railroad hobby. They provide a pathway to more enjoyment and success as a model railroader.

The Achievement Program (AP):

“...a guide to help you on your journey through the world of model railroading. The AP provides incentive to learn and master the many crafts and skills necessary in the hobby of model railroading. With the mastery of each skill, you will be issued a certificate acknowledging your achievement.” ①

Successful completion of seven certificates can lead to the Master Model Railroader (MMR) designation. Several of the certificates require a specific number of models to be scratch-built.

Modeling With The Masters (MWTM) program purpose:

“... to introduce and challenge modelers with different materials and projects requiring the use of various tools and the employment of a wide variety of skills. It is not the intent of MWTM to produce “contest” quality end products but to embed the knowledge and skills so that modelers may achieve those results in future projects. Sessions are guided by Master Model Railroaders who are experienced in the materials and skills used in the session project.”

“Of note, it is not important that the student complete the project that is the physical element of a MWTM session, but that the modeler develops or enhances the skills and techniques to complete that challenge and many others they might face in the hobby. It’s not about the finished product but about the process and procedures to arrive at or near that end. The improved capabilities of each participating modeler is the overall objective.” ②

Certain AP certificates require modeling work to be evaluated using detailed guidelines. Merit Awards are given for specific work that earns at least 87.5 points from a possible 125 points (70%) given during an evaluation process.

Perhaps the most important part of the evaluation process can be a conversation between the modeler and the evaluators. This back-and-forth discussion can provide the modeler with valuable insight to improve their work. Evaluators will point out both good points and where/how the work may be improved. The evaluation process should be viewed as an important learning tool.

Merit awards may also be earned by entering a model in a convention contest, however, there is no contact between the judges and the modeler. Since there is no feedback from the judge, a contest does not normally provide an opportunity to learn how to improve your work.

A MWTM session was held the day before the 2026 PNR regional convention in Tigard. Club member Jerry Enders participated. The project was a snow shed designed by Jack Hamilton, MMR HLM, based on various designs he found on the internet. Most of the participants completed the project and some submitted theirs for a merit award evaluation. Besides Jerry and myself, other club

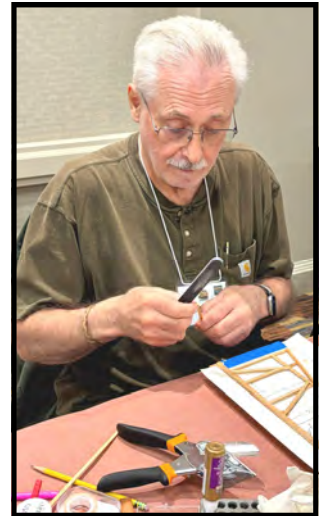
(Continued on page 8)

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members who have participated in previous MWTM sessions are Brian Drake and son Oliver. In my opinion, there is no better way to become a better modeler than participating in the Achievement Program.

Some material presented here (©) is copyrighted by the NMRA and sourced from the Association website: <https://www.nmra.org/education/achievement-program>. Photos and additional material (©) provided and copyrighted by Jeff Herrmann, MMR, outgoing PNW Region President. Remainder is copyrighted by Bremerton Northern Model Railroad, 100% NMRA club.

.... BC



Jerry hard at work!



A completed Snow Shed



*Instructors Mike Chandler, Greg Wright (lead), Bert Cripe, & Jeff Herrmann.
Not shown Jack Hamilton & Greg Kujawa.*



Lead instructor Greg Wright giving initial instructions.

JUNE BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

Several important topics were discussed and acted upon at the June Business Meeting held on Saturday, June 27th.

First of note is that the Social Breakfast will not be held on Saturday, July 4th. Open house will be held on the 4th. Watch the Clubhouse calendar for the latest info:

<https://www.bnmrr.org/calendar.html>



Second is the return of the Credit Hours for Operation Fees Program on a trial basis. This program was active back when we were a travelling club. It was stopped when we moved into the mall. Under this proposal credit would be granted for hours worked at open house sessions and Board sanctioned work days/events. Documented hours will be recorded by the Treasurer or an appointed representative and reflect actual time worked. Under this proposal the program will be implemented on a temporary trial basis until 31 December 2026. At that time, it must either be stopped or approved by the membership for continued use.

This program may be suspended temporarily by the Board in the event of financial concerns. The yearly (Jan-Dec) operation fees credit, applied at \$1.00 per hour, will not exceed \$90.00. Credit will not be granted to exceed \$90.00 nor carried over to the following year.

If the program is to be continued past 31 December 2026, the membership must approve it and the By-laws amended to add Article VII as section 5.



Third is the addition of a Nine-month trail – probationary membership. Interested persons would need to join NMRA with a 9-month rail pass (\$19.95 includes the digital version of the magazine). They would not pay the joining fee nor Operation Fees for the nine-month period. They would have to attend club functions at least twice each month during the probationary period.

At the end of the period if they decide to remain in the club, they would have to join NMRA as a full regular member, pay our joining fee, and begin paying Operation Fees. The program would give prospective members the opportunity to get to know the club and members before making the decision to pay the full amount required for regular club membership.



Fourth is action on the stuff in the backroom. Bill Hupé will be sending an email to the membership detailing how we will offer items in the backroom to the membership for free. We need to clear out the room to make way for work space/meeting area/eating area.

.... BC

CLUBHOUSE HOUSEKEEPING CONSIDERATIONS

The following points were discussed with enthusiasm at the June Business Meeting and voted to be added to the house rules as appropriate. For the benefit of all members and to present a more professional and safe environment in the Clubhouse we ask all members to follow these points.

Public space in the Clubhouse, or in a show layout area, is limited and must be reserved for layout operations and train show functions.

- During open houses or public shows, general construction or major maintenance of layouts, modules, or equipment may not be performed in public or enclosed layout areas. This work may be done in private clubhouse areas. An exception may be made for work intended as an educational display for the public, and a special table may be designated for that purpose.
- Personal equipment, including toolboxes, carrying cases, and containers for general materials, must be stored under the layout or in a private space when not in use. Boxes and storage containers should not be placed on the layout except when loading or unloading trains.
- Desks or benches in public areas may be used for immediate repairs. Once the work is finished, or if a significant interruption is expected, all materials must be removed and stored in a private area.
- Modules that are not part of the layout or are not intended to become part of the layout may not be worked on in public areas during open hours. Those modules should not be stored in public areas.
- The clubhouse may not be used for personal storage. Personal equipment or materials beyond what is needed for active maintenance and train operations should not be brought to or kept in the clubhouse.

.... BC

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Photo from Amazon website

The club has supported two local fund raiser events this year with Bachmann 'Rail Chief' HO train sets. In April we had a display table and donation at the YMCA Healthy Kids Days and for Whaling Days this July we donated another train set.

.... BC

