



The Semaphore

December 2022/January 2023

A publication of the 2nd Division of the Pacific Northwest Region of the NMRA
Greg Baker, editor

Notes from the Headend

By Jeff Shultz

The NMRA was originally founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1935 as the official model railroading standards organization. It was formed because modelers wanted to get together and run their equipment together – and couldn't, because it wasn't built to the same standards. But first, modelers wanted to get together. Without dropping into fields (psychology, sociology, anthropology) I'm not only not an expert in but am fairly bad at, humans as a general rule crave community, particularly with their own kind. It was this desire that led to the creation of the NMRA – so modelers could run trains with one another, at the simplest level.

One of our members, Phil Selinger, wants to do that locally. Phil is an HO-scale model railroader living in NW Portland, and he'd like to network with one or more other modelers in the local area. Phil models the Ma & Pa (Maryland & Pennsylvania) Railroad circa 1914, the Pennsylvania RR circa 1914, and has Royal Bavarian German display layout based in the 1920s. The German layout features full catenary and is 3 ½' x 10' in size and 95% complete. The proto-freelanced 2-track Pennsy layout is 50% complete and is located on a shelf above the Ma & Pa layout – the two are not connected. Phil can be reached at selingep@gmail.com.

Phil will be one of our two presenters on January 21st, with a presentation on the Maryland & Pennsylvania Railroad and how he is modeling it in an approximately 21' x 15' room.

Robert Leatha will be our second presenter, with a clinic on how he built the helix on this layout.

January will also see the conclusion of the **Blue Box modeling contest** – hopefully you were able to acquire one or more of the Blue Box kits donated to 2nd Division to use in creating whatever you desire – a diorama, a kitbashed model, or something completely different. Greg Baker will be judging the contest, if only to keep him from winning it. Greg won the first Walthers National Model Railroad Build-Off (<https://forum.mrhmag.com/post/great-northern-ho-scale-2%E2%80%99x4%E2%80%99-layout-walthers-national-model-railroad-buildoff-entry-12216086>) as well as the first contest 2nd Division held last year – with a diorama that didn't even exist 8 hours before. See the rules for the Blue Box contest below.

In February, we'll be meeting on the 25th (4th Saturday) instead of the normal 3rd Saturday due to schedule conflicts. We'll still be meeting at the Wilsonville Public Library at 1:30pm. It's a nice location, easy to get to from the freeway, with good wifi and parking.

Our presenters will be:

Geoff Bunza with either a prototype or first release of what is being called The Three Amigos prototype steam throttle (<https://forum.mrhmag.com/post/whats-on-your-workbench-december-2022-12507621?pid=1334043219>) an open source steam throttle project in the works by Geoff, Michael Tondee, and "HVT Dave" since February 2019.

Craig Larsen will present on his Cascade and Deschutes layout, and will also have his layout, located in SW Portland, open for visitors after the meet.

2nd Division was the recipient of a sizable donation of model railroad equipment over the summer, some of which was taken by members at meets, some of which was taken for the Blue Box contest in January, and most of the remainder of which was sold at the Rickreall Swap Meet at the beginning of the month. 2nd Division netted \$383.20 at the swap meet after paying for the tables.

Upcoming 2nd Division Meet & Clinics

By Greg Baker

The next meeting will be January 21st 1:30pm to 4:00pm.

Wilsonville Public Library (Oak Room-Southside) 8200 SW Wilsonville Rd, Wilsonville OR 97070 IN PERSON and potentially live streamed, for those who would like to watch from home. We will have some general organization updates followed by two clinics. Make sure to check out the Facebook page for our most up to date information <https://www.facebook.com/PNR2ND/>.

- Bob Letha will be presenting on his GN layout.
- Blue Box Build Off Show and Tell

We are looking for clinicians for future meetings, no experience necessary! If you have an idea and need assistance making a PowerPoint or other advice on giving a clinic, please feel free to reach out to a board for help.

Also, if you have a home layout and would be willing to share what you have with us, please let us know. All layouts, any scale, in any conditions are welcome to be submitted. From a small shelf layout to a basement empire, we would love to see what you are working on!

Blue Box Build-Off – Projects due January

By Greg Baker

The contest will wrap up at the January meeting. Please bring your models and be prepared to talk about your models for up to 5 minutes.

The 'Rules':

- 1.) Must Attend either the September or October meeting in person to choose your kit.
- 2.) Picking the kits will take place during breaks and AFTER the meeting.
- 3.) Choice of kit will be first come first pick, if we run out of kits we will allow people to use their own stash of kits, but the goal is to use the donated cars first.
- 4.) You must bring your completed creation to the January 21st 2023 meeting in Wilsonville and give a brief presentation (5 minutes or less) about what you did.
- 5.) At least 50% of the original kit must be used in your creation.
- 6.) Voting will be conducted by non-participating board member(s). The judging will be on judges preference, not using merit criteria for this activity!

Everyone will you have a new creation to add to your layout, or a new car to add to your train. The 'winner' as chosen by the judges will also walk away with a gift certificate from one of the local hobby shops!

If you have any additional questions or comments, please direct them to Greg Baker at mountaingoatgreg@gmail.com

Notes from the Caboose

Upcoming 2nd Division Meetings

- January 21st 1:30pm to 4:00pm
- February 25th 1:30pm to 4:00pm
- April 15th 1:30pm to 4:00pm
- June 17th – looking at a picnic/excursion/family event

No meets in March (too many conflicts) and May (PNR Convention 10-13 May).

Join us at the Wilsonville Public Library and feel free to bring a friend!!

Upcoming Railroad Events

2023

Feb 18-19 (Sat and Sun), Eugene, OR

Willamette Cascade Model Railroad Club Swap Meet and Train Show, Lane Events Center, Lane County Fairgrounds. Hours Saturday 9:00 -10:00(Early Bird extra admission) Saturday 10am to 5pm, Sunday 10am to 3pm. \$6.00 13 and up, \$1.00 6-12, FREE 5 and under with adult. Contact Lee Temple at tandt@ram-mail.com or 541-954-4917 for additional information.

Mar 04 (Sat), Portland, OR

Pacific Model Loggers' Congress, Camp 18 Restaurant & Logging Museum, Milepost 18, 42362 Hwy 26, Elsie, OR. Hours 9am to 5pm, \$15.00 for the day, Contact <http://www.pacificmodelloggerscongress.org>

Mar 11 (Sat), Portland, OR

Willamette Model Railroad Club Swap Meet, Kleiver Armory, 10000 NE 33rd Dr. Portland, OR 97211. Hours 9:30am to 3:00pm, \$6.00 12 and older \$12.00 early entry at 9:00am Contact Roger Rees at clocks314@msn.com or 503-256-2248 for additional information.

Mar 18 (Sat), Portland, OR

Winterail, The West's original railroad photography exposition and rail collectible sale. Corvallis High School, 1400 NW Buchanan Ave, Corvallis, OR Early tickets \$45 at the door \$55. Contact producer@winterail.com or 541-971-5110

May 10-13 (Sat and Sun), Tacoma, WA

2023 Annual PNR Convention, Prairie Line Experience. Check back later for additional information.

August 20-26 (Sun to Sat), Grapevine TX

NMRA International convention, Texas Express.
<https://www.2023texasexpress.com/>

August 25-27(Friday to Sunday) Grapevine TX

National Train Show, Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center 1501 Gaylord Trail Grapevine, TX 76051, Friday, August 25, 2023 - 1:00pm to Sunday, August 27, 2023 - 4:00pm, www.nationaltrainshow.org

- What am I missing? (if you have other events you are aware of, Club Meetings, Swap Meets, Operating Sessions, Round Robin groups, etc. please email them to me and I will add them to newsletter.) mountaingoatgreg@gmail.com

High Greens all the way!

Website: <https://2dprn.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PNR2ND>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@2dprn>