

A Publication of the  
**BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD**  
Kitsap Mall, Silverdale, Washington

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# THE FLIMSY BOARD

Train No. 12 Vol. 49

<http://www.bnrmr.org>

Issue: December 2024



[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're efforts through words and photos.

We all appreciate your contributions!

If you desire to contribute material (text or photos) for publication, submit material to me at [shepperd0718@comcast.net](mailto:shepperd0718@comcast.net).

*Shep*

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS

&

# HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

# 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

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 monthly in the clubhouse starting at 5:30p.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 8:30a.m. 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) and begin at 5:30p.m..

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



**Please welcome our newest  
member:  
Dave Adame**

The new "Welcome Aboard" Members Manual is now available .  
If you don't already have one, please ask Bert Cripe for one.

# BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD

## CALENDAR

**Note:** All dates and times are subject to change - check back often for updates.

### DECEMBER 2024

5th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
5th ..... Business meeting, 5:30 pm.; **Election of Officers for 2025.**  
7th ..... Saturday Social Breakfast Meeting at the bowling ally 8:30 am.  
7th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
9th ..... Monday 4D Westside Clinic in the Mall Community Room 5:30 pm.  
12th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
14th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
19th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
21st ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
25th ..... **MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**  
26th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
26th ..... **No Board Meeting in December.**  
28th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

### JANUARY 2025

1st ..... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**  
2nd ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
2nd ..... **NOTICE: Business meeting, POSTPONED until the 9th.**  
4th ..... Saturday Social Breakfast Meeting at the bowling ally 8:30 am.  
4th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
9th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
9th ..... Thursday **DINNER BUSINESS MEETING 5:30 pm.** Location to be announced.  
11th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
13th ..... Monday 4D Westside Clinic in the Mall Community Room 5:30 pm.  
16th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
18th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
23rd ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
25th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
25th ..... Board Meeting starting at 4:30 p.m.  
30th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

### FEBRUARY 2025

1st ..... Saturday Social Breakfast Meeting at the bowling ally 8:30 am.  
1st ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
6th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
6th ..... Business meeting, 5:30 pm.  
8th ..... Saturday Social Breakfast Meeting at the bowling ally 8:30 am.  
8th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
13th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
15th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
20th ..... Monday 4D Westside Clinic in the Mall Community Room 5:30 pm.  
22nd ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
27th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
27th ..... Board Meeting starting at 4:30 p.m.

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

As discussed in recent editions of the Flimsy, prototype railroads use both simple and complex systems of signals to assure train safety; and as discussed recent news broadcasts have shown that the ability of signal systems to control trains safely is critical. These systems are set-up to communicate train locations and train movement from block to block. The figure below show three typical track configurations. In some ways, these are similar to street traffic signals, except trains on a single track route travel in the same lane. One train follows another at a safe distance and speed because the signals indicate how far ahead the track is clear.

In another situation, one train can approach another where a passing track is provided and the two are allowed to safely pass one another.

Another situation is where tracks cross one another creating a critical condition requiring signal control.

Prototype trains are running at relatively high speeds and require long distances to stop. Hence the engineer needs to know the status of not just the block ahead but the block after it, and sometimes the block after that as well.

So in some cases, railroads use two sets of targets on a single signal system providing. So for example, a green over yellow would indicate the first block ahead is clear, but the second block ahead warns the operator to proceed but be prepared to stop. Where there is a siding or branch line joining the main, a green over red

would indicate the main is clear and the branch/spur is not.

Originally, these signals were used primarily to inform the engineer whether the train needed to stop to receive train orders. The target being mounted on the eave of the trackside building, like a depot.

Since these signals are set to indicate "blocks" of section of the line are clear, etc., we modelers have to do the same thing that the prototypes do: have a system that detects the presence of a train (or part of a train) in each section.

The prototype uses a closed circuit between rails on each section. When the section is empty, the circuit is closed activating a relay indicating the section is empty. When a train or cars are in the section, the metal wheels and axles short the circuit causing the relay to 'fall out' indicating the section is occupied.

Modelers use slightly different approach. Typically, a device is used to recognize that the circuit between the rails is complete (i.e. a train is present) when the section is occupied activating the signal system.

Fortunately for us modelers, there are a number of electronic devices available on the market that do the job very well. In the next issue, I will describe the methodologies of detection and some of these electronic devices that are available.

*This Article to be Continued in the Next Flimsy Issue*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

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

### Great Train Show

**Saturday & Sunday**

**January 11th & 12th**

**10am—4pm**

**Clark County Fair**

**Ridgefield, WA**

### Great Train Show

**Saturday & Sunday**

**January 18th & 19th**

**Washington State Fair**

**Puyallup, WA**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**February 8th & 9th**

**4th Annual Railroad Swap Meet & Train Show**

**Saturday 10am to 4pm;**

**Sunday 10am to 3pm**

**Grays Harbor Fairgrounds**

**Elma, WA**

**Saturday & Sunday**

**32nd Washington State Train Show & Marketplace**

**10am to 4pm**

**Evergreen State Fairgrounds**

**Monroe, WA**

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**Website: [https://www.railserve.com/events/train\\_shows.html](https://www.railserve.com/events/train_shows.html)**

