

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

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# THE FLIMSY BOARD

Train No. 2 Vol. 50

<http://www.bnrmr.org>

Issue: February 2025



[BNMR is a 100% NMRA](http://www.bnrmr.org)

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, the 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 their efforts through words and photos.

We really encourage all members to make a contribution; we appreciate all your past contributions! Consider making future ones!

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

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## TRAIN TRIVIA

- ♦ A song, written by John Hartford, talking about riding the rails.
- ♦ In railroad lingo, meaning "let's get going."
- ♦ The enthusiast who was the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine

Answers on the following page

# 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: (NOTE: NEW DAYS / TIMES!)

**General Business** meetings are held as set by the President on the first Saturday of the month in our clubhouse at the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale. The meeting begins at 10 am.

**Board meetings** are held as set by the President the last Saturday of the month in our clubhouse at the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale. The meeting begins at 10 am.

Alternate dates will be scheduled when the meeting falls on a holiday.

**"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 Third of the Saturday in the clubhouse and begin at 10 am.

## OFFICERS:

President: Bill Hupé  
Vice President: Jerry Enders  
Secretary: Trish Williams  
Treasurer: Bert Cripe  
Directors: Mark Stephens  
                  Bob "Shep" Shepperd  
                  Jim Hochstein  
Librarian: Tom Barrett

## TRAIN TRIVIA ANSWERS

A song, written by John Hartford, talking about riding the rails: Gentle on My Mind

In railroad lingo, meaning "let's get a move on:" Pour the coals to it!

The enthusiast who was the creator of Thomas the Tank Engine: Rev. W. Awdry

## A NEW MEMBER

We have a new member joining to our club. Let's Welcome:

**David Adame**

David has not committed to any particular scale; he is basically a beginner and desires to learn. So let's help him along!

# BREMERTON NORTHERN MODEL RAILROAD CALENDAR

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

Note: the **NEW TIMES & DAYS** of our meetings

## 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.  
8th ..... Saturday Business meeting, 10 am.  
8th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
13th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
15th..... Saturday 4D Westside Clinic 10 am.  
15th ..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
22nd ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
27th..... Board Meeting starting at 10 am.  
27th..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

## MARCH 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.  
8th..... Saturday Business Meeting 10am.  
8th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
13th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
15th..... Saturday 4D Westside Clinic 10 am.  
15th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
20th..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
22nd..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
27th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
29th..... Board Meeting starting at 10 am.  
29th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

## APRIL 2025

3rd..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
5th..... Saturday Social Breakfast Meeting at the bowling ally 8:30 am.  
5th..... Saturday Business Meeting 10am.  
5th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
10th..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
12th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
17th ..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
19th..... Saturday 4D Westside Clinic 10 am.  
19th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
24th..... Thursday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.  
26th..... Saturday Open House 12 pm to 4 pm.

## JIM CALLAHAN

**It is with great sorrow that I announce the passing of long time member JIM CALLAHAN.**

On the December 27th, Jim Callahan was laid to rest at Haven of Rest in Gig Harbor.

Bill Hupe says he said this clubhouse was his happy place.

This picture of him was on a monitor in the funeral chapel.



*Photo provided by Pete Beiber*



## OUR PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Hello club members,

Today in Railroad History:

- ◆ Florida East Coast Railway's route to Key West, Florida is closed after being damaged by a hurricane.
- ◆ New York Central's coach #1472 becomes the first passenger car to be equipped with fluorescent lighting.
- ◆ The Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad is merged into the CSX system

I thought I would add some fun facts to the start of my column.

As we start the new year, I'm proud to say the ballasting of the Hope Port is complete. Now we need to do the rest of the layout.

The Mall has been sold. We have signed a lease for 15 months. The guys from the new owners toured our spaces and seemed to be impressed. They are model railroaders.

Our annual Dinner Meeting was held at a new venue this year, Amilia's. All the reviews I heard indicated that the food was fantastic. Thank you, Trish, for arranging it.

I had the privilege to award Mark Stephens with the Club's Member of the Year Award. I also announced Free Lifetime Memberships to Dan Ainslie, Vern Shook and Wes Stevens. You may wonder what this includes. A Certificate in recognition of their service to the club and the waiving of all dues. The member must keep their NMRA dues current. They are listed on our rolls as active members.

As always, I'm in the clubhouse most days from 12:00-4:30. Come in and run your trains or help on the layouts. These things always need to be done: dusting, replacing broken trees, electric work on the Lionel layout, vacuuming the carpet. The list of things to do never ends.



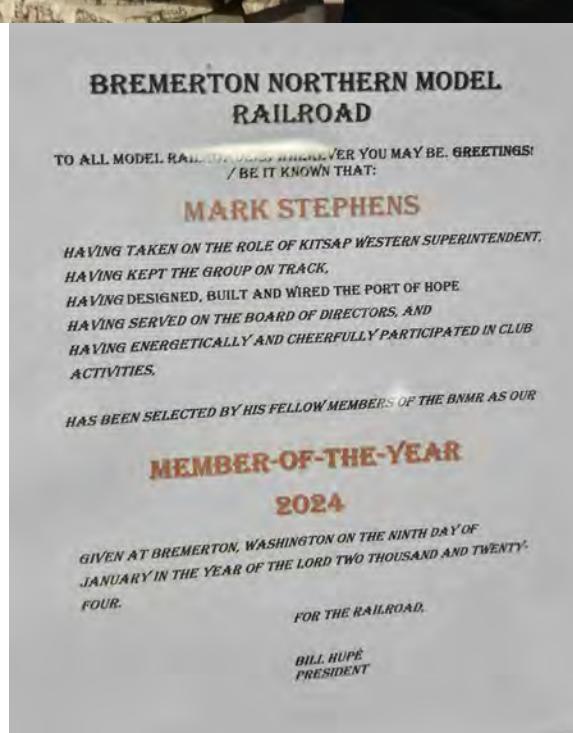
## PHOTOS OF JANUARY'S BUSINESS MEETING



Photos by Shep



# MARK STEPHENS RECEIVES THE 2024 MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Photos by Shep

# BERT CRIPE RECEIVES A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A photo of Bert Cripe receiving his Certificate of Recognition for Chief Dispatcher as he takes another step towards becoming a NRMA Master Modeler.

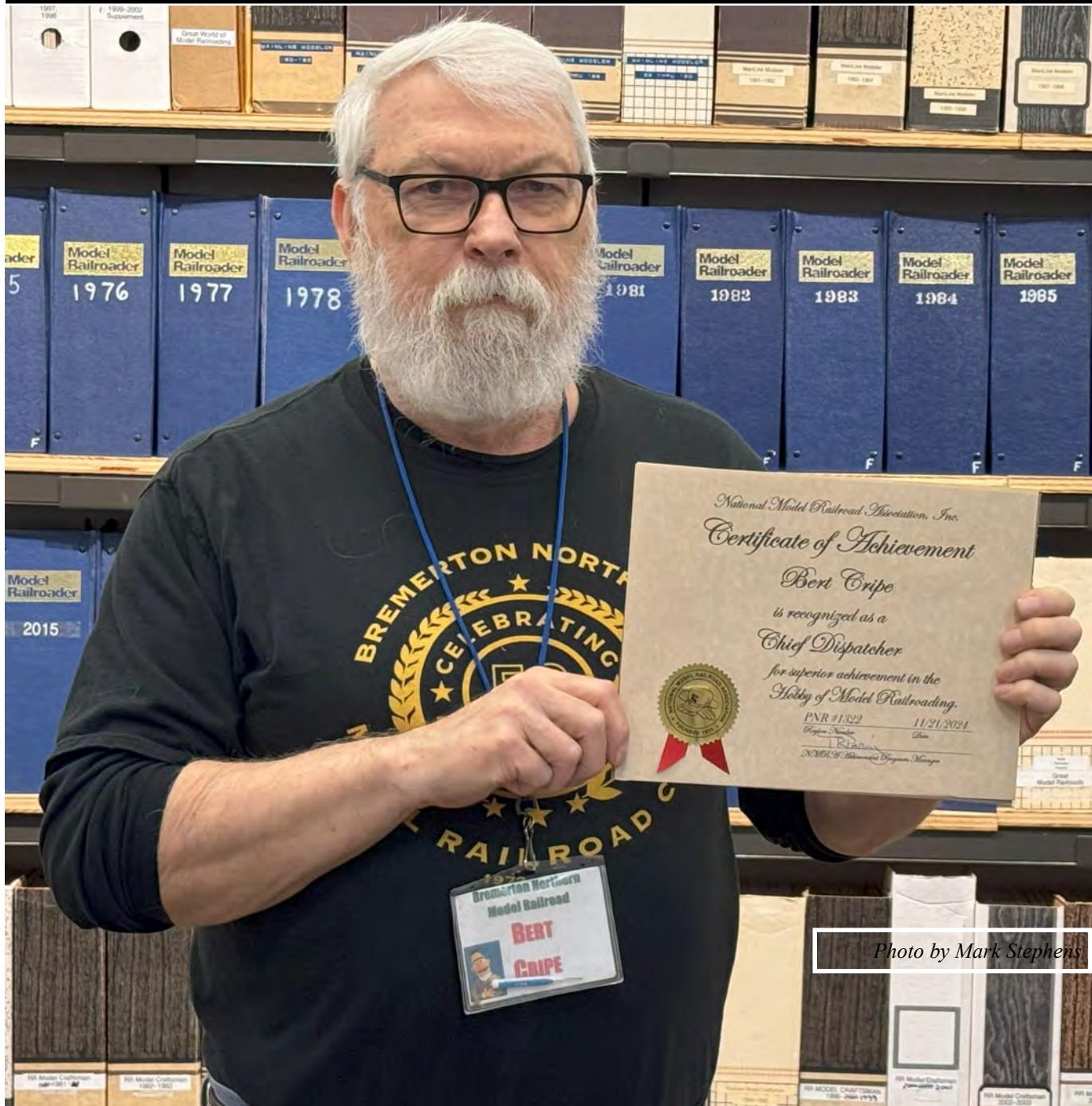


Photo by Mark Stephens



# Proposal for Establishing a BNMR FreeMoN Division

## Introduction

To further the goals and purpose of our organization. We propose the creation of a dedicated division for FreeMoN (Modular N-scale).

This division will enhance our offerings, attract new members, and expand our collaborative efforts.

*To educate persons engaged in model railroading in methods of building and operating model railroad equipment and prototype practices.*

*To develop the technical skills of persons engaged in the art and craft of model railroading.*

*To facilitate communication among all model railroaders, members and non-members alike.*

## Objectives

- **Diverse Membership:** Welcoming modelers with an interest in the modular N-scale format.
- **Enhanced Education:** Coordinate and facilitate new techniques and methods for building a module from skeleton to traveling display.
- **Community Engagement:** Engaging with local and national FreeMoN groups.

## Benefits

- **Attracting New Members:** A new division offers fresh appeal, bringing in members who specialize in or prefer the FreeMoN standard.
- **Flexibility and Creativity:** The modular nature allows for new construction of sections modules.
- **Community Building:** Strengthening ties with the broader modeling community by hosting Free MoN-specific events and collaborations.

## Implementation Plan

### **Step 1: Modification for display**

FreeMo modules are at a height of 50" to the rail head; this is a bit tall for display here.

I propose the club provide additional sets of legs for display at a more common viewing height.

### **Step 2: Infrastructure Setup**

Secure necessary resources and space for FreeMoN activities.

This may require a shuffling of existing layouts.

### **Step 3: Launch and Promotion**

Host an inaugural event to showcase the FreeMoN format.

Promote the new division through items in the newsletter, ***The Flimsy***, pictures on our social media FaceBook group **Bremerton Northern Model Railroad Club**.

## Conclusion

The establishment of a FreeMoN division aligns with our club's mission of fostering education, technical growth, and attracting new members into our model railroading community.

By embracing this popular and growing format, we enhance our club's offerings and can attract a different set of people into the hobby.

This proposal seeks the approval and support of our board members to allow bring this vision to life. Your feedback and engagement are vital to its success.

## For Consideration

I look forward to discussing this opportunity further.

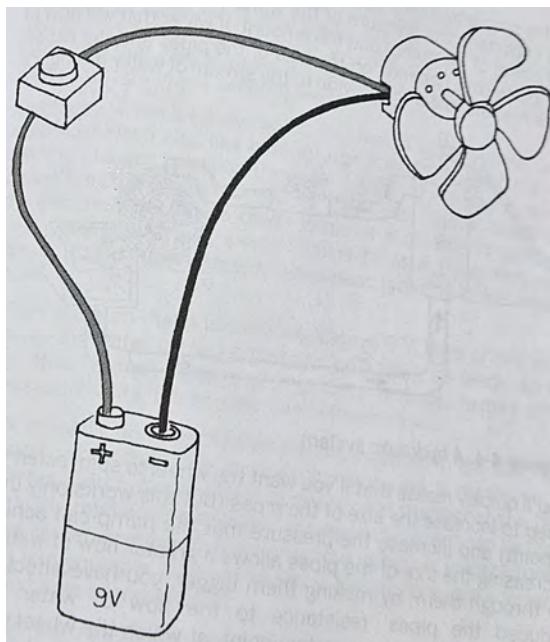
Thank you for your support and dedication to the World's Greatest Hobby.

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

As I recall, the last time I wrote this column, I stated that there are a number of electronic devices available on the market that do a good job of detecting that a train occupies a section of track. I also stated I would describe the methodologies of detection and some of these electronic devices that are commercially available. Which one is best for you depends on a number of things like what you want out of it, how your layout is set up, and of course your budget.

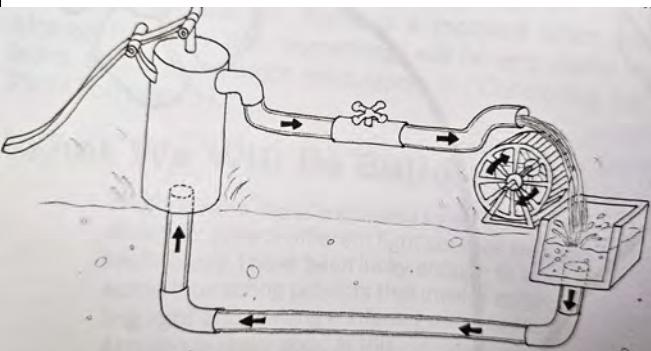
However, before I go into all that, I should first go through a brief "Electricity101". So if you're well aware of electricity and basic electronic devices, there is no need to read the rest of this month's column.

For those who are not and are interested, read on. I think one of the best ways to understand electricity and how electric circuits work is with the "water analogy." Take a simple device like



the battery-powered fan shown below.

With imagination one can see an analogy with the figure below. The pump (or the battery) provides the 'push' to send the water (or the electric-



ity) down the pipe (or the wire) to the water-wheel (or the fan motor) and then back to the pump reservoir (or the battery).

In this analogy, three things are important: the pressure of the water (as determined by the power of the pump), the amount of water that will flow through the pipes, and the resistance to the flow provided by the pipes themselves, the valve, and the resistance that the wheel provides when the water hits it.

You can see that if you want the wheel to spin faster you must increase the water flow to it. This can be done by increasing the pipe size (which works only to a point) and increasing the pump pressure. Increased pipe size allows more water flow. But this only works to the point where the wheel is incapable of spinning faster because the water pressure is insufficient to provide enough water to do the job. At this point, a stronger pump is needed. You can keep doing

*(Continued on page 11)*

this until the water flow is too strong and it destroys the mill.

Electricity travels essentially at the speed of light regardless of anything else. In our analogy, it's the amount of water (electricity) that can be changed by changing the pressure put upon it and/or the resistance placed against it.

As you probably remember, the electron occupies the "outer shells" of the atom. Electrons can (and do) travel from atom to atom. How easily this happens depends on the element. For example, the copper atom is constructed such that electrons can travel relatively easily from atom to atom. So it's called a conductor. With wood or rubber, on the other hand, electrons cannot travel easily from atom to atom. So it's called a non-conductor or insulator. A few, like silicon, are somewhat capable of letting electrons travel from atom to atom; these are called semi-conductors.

Originally, it was thought that electricity (electrons) flowed from a positive electro-magnetic force to a negative force. We now know through experimentation that the opposite is true — electrons flow from negative to positive. However, even today, conventional electric current is referred to and shown in schematic drawings as positive to negative.

The push is electro-magnetic force and is measured in Volts (V) (often referred to as the voltage). The current is the amount of electricity flowing and is measured in Amps (I) (referred to as amperage). The resistance (R) is measured in Ohms.

The relationships between these three parts is rendered into mathematical formulas:

$$V = I * R$$

$$I = V/R$$

$$R = V/I$$

Of course, power is created when electricity flows through anything. Electric power is measured in Watts (P). The relationships between the three parts is also rendered into mathematical formulas:

$$P = I * V$$

$$P = I^2 * R$$

$$P = V^2/R$$

Not to over do it on the algebra, but if you look at these formulas you can see the relationships that exist between these four parts.

There is another point I want to make. I have referred to this phenomenon as electro-magnetic force because the two are interconnected. When electricity flows through a wire, for instance, it produces a magnetic field around the wire. If this field travels through, say, an adjacent unrelated wire, it will produce voltage and current flow in that second wire. The "movement" of the magnetic field through the second wire is what creates the voltage and current flow in that second adjacent wire. Once the voltage and current are established in the first wire, the "movement" of the magnetic field through the second wire ceases; thus the current ceases.

This is the result with DC (Direct Current); since once established, voltage never varies or

*Article To Be Continued Next Issue.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE REGION

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

### Saturday & Sunday

**February 8th & 9th: Elma, WA**

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

Saturday 10am to 4pm; Sunday 10am to 3pm

Grays Harbor Fairgrounds

### Saturday & Sunday

**February 22nd & 23rd: Monroe, WA**

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

**Details at:**

<http://unwclub.com/unwshow/>

**The 90th NMRA National Model Railroad Convention,  
STATION No. VI**

**July 14-19, 2025 – Novi, Michigan**

<https://pnr5d.org/pnr-5th-division-home-page/2025-pnr-convention/>

### Sunday

**March 9th: Spokane, WA**

**River City Modelers Train Show**

**9:30am to 3:30pm**

**Spokane County Fair & Expo Center**

### Saturday & Sunday

**April 5th & 6th: Chehalis, WA**

**Lewis County Modelers Club**

**Spring Train Show & Swap Meet**

Saturday 10am to 4pm; Sunday 10am to 2pm

### Friday, Saturday & Sunday

**May 9th thru 11th: Pasco, WA**

**2025 PNR Convention**

**“The Ainsworth Connection,”  
Hosted by the 5th Div.**

**Red Lion, Pasco**

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