Fleet Updates

Now that the current WN layout is at the stage of being about as complete as a model railroad ever gets, I have turned more attention to the locomotive roster and rolling stock fleet.

I have been spending a lot of time weathering, detailing and installing decoders and/or sound to the numerous locomotives I have acquired over the years. Many of these are 6-axle power that were in service on the former version of the WN. These are rarely used in ops sessions on the current layout, but I still enjoy running them on the layout on occasion. And when I finally get to the point of building the future “dream layout” I will have this road power ready to go.

SD60s, SD70Macs, C44-9Ws, as well as some EMD 4-axle power in the form of GP-40s and MP15DC units are in the process of getting paint and decals. There are also some Amtrak F40PHs getting sound and weathering for use on future Amtrak service.

I’ve also decided to upgrade my car cards with photos of the individual pieces of rolling stock included for easier identification. I’ve had a line of rolling stock steadily progress through the weathering service track. A couple examples can be seen below. Look for all of the updated locos in detail on the WN website soon.
RWCX Weed Train

A Railway Weed Control Services train recently was spotted on the WN conducting vegetation control operations. The train was built from two Atlas undecorated tankcars and a boxcar. Each was heavily modified using prototype photos as a guide. There are a few more pieces I plan to add to the train in the future. I am thrilled that the train won first place in the Rolling Stock Non-Revenue category at the NMRA Pacific Northwest Region 2014 Convention in Tacoma, WA this past June.

Seaspan Woodchip Barge

I wanted to have a woodchip barge sitting near the Raven Pulp & Paper plant ever since I finalized the design of the layout. I recently have gotten around to modeling it. I started out with a completed Walthers carfloat kit that I shortened and modified. I’m now turning my attention to the actual woodchip load. Full details can be found on the Washington Northern website.

WN Business Car

The Washington Northern’s private business car, the Cowlitz recently made an appearance on the Tideflats District. The Cowlitz honors a Native American tribe from the Olympic Peninsula region. This follows a long standing tradition for the railroad. All cars in the Washington Northern’s former passenger fleet were named for different tribes in the area.

WN’s management has been using the car for a series of special meetings with its valued customers. In this case, executives from Raven Pulp & Paper were invited on board attending a first-class rolling luncheon with railroad management. The Cowlitz was photographed below at Union Yard. This is a Kato model with custom decals.

Favorite Vendor of the quarter!

This issue’s vendor of the quarter is Bob the Train Guy of Bluffton, SC.

This is another vendor I have used and received excellent service from. Bob stocks a large variety of model railroad items in all scales at competitive prices. They will ship your order within 24 hours via USPS.

If not satisfied with your order, you may return most new, unopened items within 14 days of delivery for a full refund. They will also pay the return shipping costs if the return is a result of their error (you received an incorrect or defective item, etc.).

They also regularly offer items on eBay. Check them out at: http://www.bobthetrainguy.com/

Special thanks to my friend and fellow modeler Jim Sabol for his time and assistance with this issue of the WN Bulletin.
Washington Northern honors the World Champion Seattle Seahawks

As some of you may know, I am a huge Seattle Seahawks fan and a season ticket holder for many years now. A few years ago my daughter Tara gave me a commemorative Seahawks locomotive for Christmas. It turns out the Bachmann company manufactured these units. When Bachmann introduced their line of DCC and sound equipped locomotives a year or so later, I had a hunch the shells may be interchangeable. As it happened, this fall I found a Southern Pacific A-B set in Black Widow paint at a very reasonable price at a swap meet. Sure enough, a simple shell swap between the two, and I had a DCC and sound equipped Seahawks unit. I added a few WN decals and some additional details included the road number “12”. She is now touring the WN system in honor of the current world champs.

WN Rolling Stock is Getting Around!

The Washington Northern logo was recently spotted on the rails a long way from home.

Modeling friends have been sending me photos of Washington Northern rolling stock on their personal and club layouts. Below are a couple examples. In the next issue of the WN Bulletin I will be showing some of the decals I received, in exchange for my WN sets, on rolling stock roaming the Washington Northern rails.

Washington Northern boxcars are being loaded onto a railbarge on the Seattle & North Coast railroad. The action takes place on Jim Hamlin’s S&NC layout in Dallas, Texas.

Freshly shopped Washington Northern covered hopper 0912 has made its way across the country to Battlefield Yard on the Virginia Midland. The Virginia Midland is the freelanced HO scale railroad of Shannon Crabtree of Virginia.