



WN GP7 #102 is crossing Industry Drive on former Milwaukee Road trackage.

WN welcomes you

Thanks for attending the NMRA Pacific Northwest Region, 4th Division, Tacoma spring layout tour.

ABOUT KEVIN KLETTKE

I grew up in Eastern Washington watching first the Great Northern, then the Burlington Northern mainline roar through my hometown. I received my Tyco HO train set from mom & dad that year for Christmas and 39 years later I'm still at it. This is my 6th layout. My first was a 4' x 8' Santa Fe layout hinged to a wall in my parents garage. The last three have been as an adult. The last two have been the fictitious Washington Northern.

I work as a graphic designer and live in Fife, Washington with my VERY supportive wife Jodi and my dog Bentley.

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Introduction to the Washington Northern.

The Washington Northern is a freelanced HO scale model railroad set in the Olympic Peninsula of Washington State in the mid 1990s. A regional railroad centered in the fictitious large deep water port city of Port Andrews geographically located between the real cities of Port Angeles and Port Townsend on what is Discovery Bay on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

The specific area I am modeling at this time is the Port Andrews Tideflats District. This version of the WN is a small switching layout in a spare bedroom of my new home. A former version housed in a 23' x 32' room depicting the Coast Subdivision in my old home was dismantled in 2005.

While I miss the long mainline runs of the old layout, the new, smaller version of the WN has allowed me to make progress much more rapidly, while adding more detail and getting up and operating in a reasonable amount of time.

The layout was adapted from a track plan that originally appeared in the September 1998 issue of Model Railroader called the "Pike City Beltline". It was flipped and altered to fit my waterfront layout criteria. The layout has recently been expanded to include the entire 10x12 bedroom that it occupies.

Inexpensive shelving brackets mounted to the studs hold the layout shelf domino sections to the wall. This has proved to be a very sturdy method when an anchor bolt on each end of the shelf are driven into a stud. On the end of peninsulas, 2x2 legs provide the support.

I hope you enjoy your visit to my version of the far Northwest corner of the US.



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Member



Operations Overview

- Two inbound and two outbound trains normally make up an operating session. Trains come off the two-track staging yard located under the Paper Mill. These are operated as turns or transfer runs.
- A very simplified waybill and 2-cycle car card system is used for all car movements.
- The Raven Pulp & Paper mill operates it's own switcher to handle most in-plant switching and is a separate job during an operating session.
- There is no dispatcher or fast clock used. Sessions are simply ran until the work is complete.



Visit my website at wnrr.net

NCE DCC Control

The layout is run with a wireless NCE ProCab system. Originally wired with a Lenz system, I decided to make the switch to NCE after operating on several NCE layouts and loved the throttle design and wireless features of the NCE system. The switch went smooth and I encountered no problems. I am still using the original Lenz accessory decoders to control turnout motors.

Programming of decoders and sound decoders is done using the JMRI computer interface. Assisting is a PowerPax programming booster connected to the programming track located in a drawer on the layout fascia.

WN Featured in Model Railroad Hobbyist online magazine

The Washington Northern was featured in the Nov/Dec 2010 issue of MRH. This is a monthly online 100% FREE Ezine dedicated to model railroading. Check it out!

<http://model-railroad-hobbyist.com/>



Operation Sessions

Because of the size of the layout, two to three people are the maximum size of the operating crew. I act as trainmaster and maintenance crew while guests run the trains. Set schedules for operations have yet to be determined.

Foreign Road Power and Rolling Stock Welcome!

If anyone out there has some spare custom decal sets for their HO scale freelanced railroad and would like to trade, I'd be more than happy to. I have a couple from other freelanced railroad owners that I have applied to some rolling stock on my layout. I enjoy having these cars show up during operations. If interested, send me an email at wnrr@comcast.net