



# The Purple Sage Limited

3rd Division, Pacific Northwest Region

*National Model Railroad Association*



Volume 41

Spring, 2023



Caldwell club.

# Santa Loves a Good Train!

## Thinking ahead to the holidays and the future.

By Joel Williams, Fruitland, ID 3rd Div PNR NMRA  
Photos by the author.

Many of us got into trains as youngsters with a train set delivered by St. Nicholas, or maybe you saw an exciting layout in a storefront window around the holiday season and caught the train bug.

I wasn't much different. I received an American Flyer S gauge train set for my sixth birthday from my grandfather. At that time, we were living in Astoria, Oregon which is located in Clatsop County in Northwest Oregon. Astoria plays host to a LOT of rain which meant as a youngster, I learned to play inside.

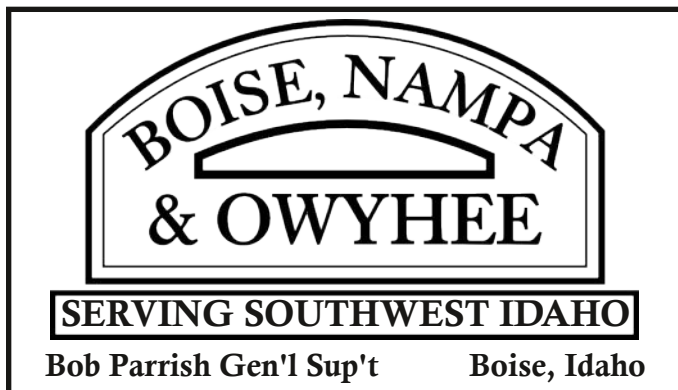
Enter slot cars, GI Joe's, and trains!



Picture 1. Introductory sets include an oval of track, nails, and a transformer.

I can remember hunting down the used S gauge track and cars from Goodwill stores in the Portland area with my dad when we went to visit my grandparents there, and over time I amassed a nice collection of track and rolling stock. When outside play was not an option because of the weather, I was building layouts on the floor in the basement using cardboard boxes for buildings.

That bit of nostalgia brings me to the point of this article. WE need to get the next generation started in model railroading. I don't think I've ever met a kid who didn't like trains on some



level.

One of the challenges today is that the entry level cost to our hobby is prohibitive. A new train set goes from \$130 - \$350 and HIGHER. I expect that parents would be concerned about their budding engineer running that \$150 locomotive at top speed around an 18" corner on the table top!

My idea to help get an enthusiast's foot AFFORDABLY into the door of model railroading looks something like this: we dig through our train collection boxes and put together a set up, or set ups, that a person either gives away or sells at near cost to fire-up a new "Fireman".

One of the easiest, least expensive scales to do this in is HO. We are only limited by what we have on hand or are willing to contribute, and used equipment is widely available. The scale is up to you, however! I sold seven HO scale



Picture 2. Introductory sets include refurbished, used equipment. A locomotive, two cars, and a matching caboose.

"Holiday Trains" on Facebook Marketplace in the run up to Christmas 2022. Those sets consisted of an oval of track - nails included, a transformer, a locomotive, two cars, and a matching caboose. All of these items were used, some from the 1970s; I just made sure they worked.

My practice is to acquire inexpensive section track that I clean. I ensure that the pieces have rail joiners that connect securely. I clean all of the locomotive electrical contacts including wheels, I replace the drive tires on the wheel sets if needed, and I lube/oil the engine to make sure it operates as one would expect. I clean wheels on cars and check that all couplers are operational. In short, someone will have fun with a train set if it works well enough! I sell them for cost. Typically this has been between \$40-\$50. As it should be, this price point is approachable for most families.

Again, this is not something I have done to make money. This is all about getting trains into the hands of the next generation.

Today's model railroad manufacturers are marketing to folks with time and money. There's no doubt that the detail and quality of their new product lines are terrific but the sad fact is that most young families need a less expensive way into the hobby and I think we can all help out!

Keep your eyes open for great deals and dig through your boxes to find a basic set or sets of gear that can get the next generation going. If we are giving them away, I'll bet that local model railroad clubs would hold a drawing or even know interested parties that could benefit from having a train set. If you are selling a set or two, you can do that locally on Craigslist. Or you can post on Facebook Marketplace, and mark

an item for local pickup if you don't want to deal with shipping.

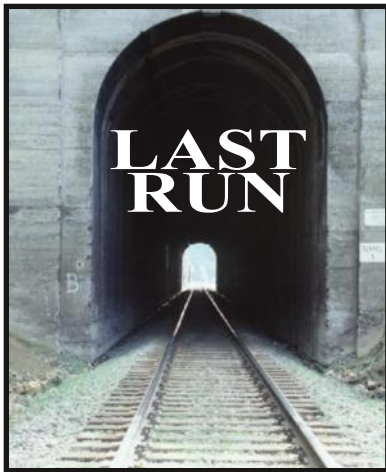
The thought of getting train sets to new hobbyists for a very affordable price is something that should resonate with all NMRA members. Give a thought to how you can help out with this endeavor. Start your planning now, because sometimes even Santa can use a little help!

# 2022 Trip to Ontario

Some shots from last July's excursion to Ontario.



*Joel Williams is from Fruitland, ID and models the Soo Line in HO scale.*



Bill Chapman, 85, long time model railroader, passed away in late December, 2022. Bill had a heart attack while he was in Denver visiting his daughter and grandchildren.

Shelley



And the Scale Trains visit to the Caldwell club.



**Coquille River Lines**  
 open by appointment  
 jerryrthomas.jt@gmail.com  
 (208) 830-6364



# More Achievement Program Evaluations

Several models were evaluated for the achievement program at the Spring meet.



## Neons and Freons

Tom Waters is surprised with the prestigious Ignobel award for his famous and innovative electronics theories at the 2023 Spring meet.



# The Benefits of Social Media

## Modeling resources on Facebook and Instagram

By Joel Williams, Fruitland, ID

3rd Div PNR NMRA Facebook and Instagram have some terrific resources for modelers and many of those can help you improve your modeling!

If you are looking to purchase a specific model, facebook has a multitude of buying and selling groups for the various scales. A quick search for "model trains" returns groups that just talk about modeling model trains, selling model trains, a hobby store business, a Proto 2000 model train group, and more.

I belong to several buy sell groups for HO scale. I have purchased cars and locomotives through such groups. Similar groups exist for your scale as well. Of particular interest to me are the modeling groups found on facebook. I have joined a group that is centered around Digitrax DCC. They have helped me with decoder installation and trouble shooting.

As a Soo Line modeler, here is a list of just some of the model railroad groups I'm a member of:

1. Soo Line Models in Action
2. Soo2ndSub
3. Twin Ports Model Rails
4. Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic Remembered
5. Soo Line Historical & Technical Society
6. Soo Line Modeling Parts Exchange
7. Soo Line Railroad Remembered

In these groups I can ask questions about the areas I am modeling, talk

about paint colors, and hear first hand accounts about the towns, equipment, and people of the Soo.

There are groups for your scale, railroad, and brand of model plus many more. I am very appreciative to be in the Proto 2000 group. I own several Proto models. As a participant in the group I learned how to fix a common cracked gear problem on four axle locomotives.

Instagram is another social media platform but this one works more in images. Searching trains, model trains, or model railroad will net results of beautiful layouts in both video and pictures. I have encountered hobby stores through social media searches and great photos of the areas I model. It is fairly easy to find images of the regions I attempt to replicate as well.

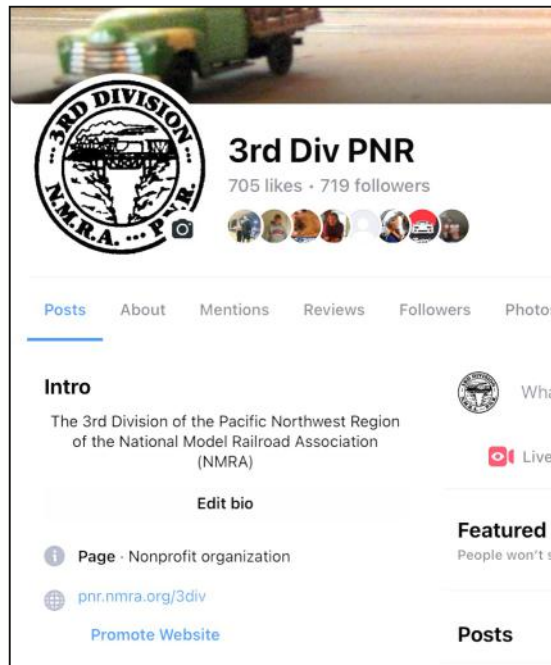
I enjoy not only seeing what others are doing in the

various groups I participate in, but also sharing the projects that I have been working on. I contribute regularly to Soo Line Models in Action group. I'll get feed back on my work and through it, I improve as a modeler.

One of the drawbacks to using these platforms is that you let these businesses see in to your interests, so that searching for "cigars" in the application, aka "app", will net results for "cigars" and a lot of the targeted advertisements in your time line then will be about "cigars". If you're like me and want to see things related to "trains" that's no big deal!

Facebook is an app that most folks are at least familiar with, it runs on your phone or your computer. Instagram is an app that runs specifically on your phone.

3rd Division PNR has a social media presence. Search 3rd Div PNR to find us on Facebook. Give us a "like" and please share our page. This can help grow our hobby and



3rd Div PNR Facebook page. Search 3rd Div PNR in the Facebook application.

increase new members.

Social media is not for everyone but if it IS for you I say, "All Aboard!!"

See you online!



### ADVERTISING

ADVERTISING RATES FOR ONE YEAR ARE:

	2 X 3 1/2"	3 X 3 1/2"	4 X 3 1/2"
COMMERCIAL	24.00	36.00	48.00
CLUB	20.00	30.00	40.00
CLASSIFIED	16.00	24.00	32.00
INDIVIDUAL PIKE	12.00	18.00	24.00

SEND YOUR READY MADE AD (AS A GRAPHIC), OR I CAN LAY IT OUT FROM YOUR MOCKUP

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

THIS PUBLICATION IS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, MEMBERS OR NOT, FREE OF CHARGE. WE WILL GLADLY ACCEPT A \$6 PER YEAR CONTRIBUTION FROM NON-MEMBERS WHO MAY STILL WISH TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING.



**LEISURE PRAIRIE R. R.**

WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF GREASY MILLS, INC.

**RICK UHLENKOTT**

PRESIDENT & CEO


NAMPA, IDAHO  
rduhleNkott@aol.com

Ph: (208) 919-3842  
http://www.trainweb.org/lprailroad/


PERUSAL MAY BE ACTUALIZED ON THE FOURTH TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, OR AS OTHERWISE ENDORSED BY THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

# 2023 Spring Meet



**Western Pacific Railroad**  
Feather River Canyon  
Circa 1970

**Terry Nelson**  
General Freight Agent  
(208) 895-8030

  
Home of the California Zephyr



**Third Division \ PNR \ NMRA**  
 Officers and Board of Directors



Superintendent	Shelley Shelstad	(208) 344-7703	<a href="mailto:sshelsta@mindspring.com">sshelsta@mindspring.com</a>
Secretary	Terry Nelson	(208) 895-8030	<a href="mailto:terrynelson@centurylink.net">terrynelson@centurylink.net</a>
Treasurer	Jack Cunningham	(208) 740-0594	<a href="mailto:Jack41@cableone.net">Jack41@cableone.net</a>
Purple Sage (newsletter) Editor	Rick Uhlenkott	(208) 919-3842	<a href="mailto:rduhlenkott@aol.com">rduhlenkott@aol.com</a>
Achievement Program	Bob Parrish	(208) 866-4601	<a href="mailto:bobparrish770@gmail.com">bobparrish770@gmail.com</a>
Membership			
Immediate Past Superintendent	Tom Waters	(208) 375-4796	<a href="mailto:twaters8@msn.com">twaters8@msn.com</a>



National Model Railroad Association, Inc.  
New Member Application

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/Country:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Birth Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Scale:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership	1 Year	2 Year	Total
<b>Member</b> – All rights & benefits as well as the digital NMRA magazine access.	\$68.00	\$136.00	
<b>Member with Printed Magazine Subscription</b> – All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine access and the Printed Magazine.	\$92.00	\$184.00	
<b>Family</b> – Spouse or minor child of above member. No magazine, no voting rights, not allowed to hold office.	\$10.00	\$20.00	
<b>Sustaining</b> – Mandatory for group memberships (Clubs, Business, Associations). All rights & benefits, digital NMRA Magazine access and the Printed NMRA magazine.	\$120.00	\$240.00	
<b>Student</b> – Between the ages of 19-25 years of age. All rights & benefits, digital NMRA magazine access.	\$40.00	\$80.00	
<b>Membership</b>			\$
<b>General Donation</b>			\$
<b>Merchandise</b>			\$
<b>Region Subscription</b>			\$
<b>Total</b>			\$

Thank you for being a member of the NMRA! It is extremely important to have your current email address on file. This is used for access to the member only section, turntable, ballots, voting, annual donation statements, online renewals and communication. Please be sure to note your email address below.

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks Payable to NMRA. We accept MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express.

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expire Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Purple Sage Limited

c/o RD Uhlenkott, MMR  
2413 Port  
Nampa, ID 83687-6931