

## Lewiston Mini-meet report

By Shirley Sample

Wayne Walling did a great job of organizing and setting up the Mini-Meet in Lewiston, ID October 1-3, 2010.

Registration was from 10 am to noon on Friday, then after a break for lunch we car pooled to the Great Northwest Railroad for a tour of their facility. Our host, Ted Kadau Jr., explained about the operation of the short-line railroad and gave us a WATCO flyer showing all of their operations throughout the US and Canada. He then gave us a tour of the yard including the 1914 turn table and the old roundhouse area. We were able to wander around and take pictures for about an hour or so.

Clinics were presented in the afternoon. The first one was by Bill Kleinert on modeling Basalt Rock Formations. Bill has developed a technique of forming basalt out of pink foam core then painting & detailing. The second presentation of the afternoon was by Steve Taulbee on speeders. Steve was very informative about speeders and speeder trips. He shared several stories with us about his travels throughout the US and Canada and brought one of his speeders so we could see how it worked.

After a break for dinner we toured two layouts. At Bill Kleinert's we were able to see how he has used his basalt rock techniques in his layout. His 10 x 12 HO Seaport and Logging line is DCC powered and is about 75% complete at this time. It was then off to Bruce Renshaw's to view his 14 x 24 S Scale layout. This is a Pacific Northwest themed layout based on operations. All track work is complete and scenery finished. Very unique work on bridges and trestles.

The next morning we were back at the meet location for coffee & donuts and a time saver switching puzzle that was put together by Jon Singleton. We had a great presentation by a retired Camas Prairie Engineer, Jim Morefield. Jim explained about his years at the Railroad as a Maintenance foreman, engineer, etc. Jim graciously answered a lot of questions about how the railroad worked and talked about some of the movies that had been filmed on the Railroad throughout the years. He was very informative about the trestles on the Camas Prairie.

Our next clinic was presented by John Bilahorka on structure Interior Lighting. John explained the various methods of lighting structures and the types of bulbs that can be used for interiors and street lights.

After lunch Phil Everett presented a clinic on "Things we don't model". His clinic makes you more aware of things that should be included on a layout, but are usually overlooked. Details do make a lot of difference.

Three layout tours were offered in the afternoon. Ken Anderson's 10 x 28 HO operations based layout has most of the track laid and bench work completed. Bob Bjerke has a 10 x 32 N scale layout spanning three basement rooms. This is a UP based prototype eye level layout with many scratch built structures for the industries. Next was Lee Knapp's 11 x 24 HO mining and industrial layout with Pacific NW origins. Layout is mostly complete with a lot of lumber and mining industry activity.

A no host dinner was enjoyed by 14 at Rooster's Landing in Clarkston. A great restaurant right on the River in the Port of Clarkston.

After dinner several of us visited Mike McGee's 12 x 24 N scale layout in Juliaetta, ID. The layout is in progress and is based on NP operations starting in Lester, WA. Scenery is in place and operations are just getting started.

Sunday several of us made our way to Kamiah, ID where we visited Larry Mills and his 24 x 36 O gauge three-tiered Lionel Layout. Larry has a massive collection of Lionel equipment and accessories as well as collections of cups, plates, chess sets, porcelain busts, and beer steins. Lunch was served at Larry's and enjoyed by all.

Attendance for the mini-meet was low – around 20, but those who were there had a great time and there was a lot to see & do.

The Annual meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> Division will be held in April in Spokane. We will try for either the 9<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup> – depending on where we find to hold the meeting. If you would be willing to do a clinic or presentation or have your layout open for people to view in the afternoon or evening, please let me know. As I have mentioned in the past your layout doesn't have to be elaborate. People like to see how others are doing things and even if you aren't done it is always to see what has been done and how it has been done.