

NMRA Pacific Northwest Region

On30 Modular Railroad Proposal

1. Purpose:

1.1 The purpose of the NMRA PNR sponsored modular railroad is to promote the NMRA and the hobby of model railroading to the general public. In addition the modular railroad will aid in enhancing the experience of being a member of the NMRA, foster friendship and cooperation among members and to provide a path for individual as well as team achievement in all facets of the model railroad hobby.

2. Participation:

2.1 The module group, hereby known as the “Pacific Northwest On30 Modular Group”, will consist of any NMRA Pacific Northwest Region member in good standing who wishes to be a part of the module group. The member shall be expected to follow the guidelines set up by the module committee/group. Any members should understand that they will be expected to attend as many shows as they can with their module(s). The modular group will have advance notice for any shows/events that the modules will be on display so that all members have enough time to plan on participation. In the event that a member cannot make it to an event and their module is required for the event, he/she will have the responsibility to get their module to the event by making whatever arrangements are needed. The member will not have to be in attendance during the entire time the layout is displayed. A schedule will be used to allow the participants to schedule their time if necessary.

2.2 The Region/Division will not normally be responsible for the transportation or security of the modules and models used on them. Most shows and other venues have security onsite when the show is closed but it is still up to the module group to determine how they want to secure their displays.

3. Committees

3.1 Module Committee

3.1.1 The Module Committee is made up of those members who:

- a) have constructed a module within established standards and
- b) have participated in at least one complete show (a complete show is defined as setup, running and tear-down over the course of one or more days)

3.1.2 Officers of the Modular Committee shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice Chairman and a Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by the Modular Committee. The Module Committee Chairman oversees the logistics and scheduling for shows and events. The Vice Chairman shall act instead of the Chairman when the Chair is unable to perform his/her duties. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the funds of the Group

3.2. Quality Control Committee:

3.2.1 There shall be a Quality Control Committee (QCC) that is responsible for the inspection of all modules prior to their being shown. The QCC shall consist of three senior members of the Module Committee who have participated in four or more shows and own or maintain four or more group modules. The QCC shall be elected by the Module Committee. Decisions on module suitability for a show rest solely and finally with the QCC. Their decision is final. Every effort will be made to assist the module builders in completing their module(s) to the highest standards achievable.

4. Layout Design Parameters:

4.1 The minimum module design standards shall be publicly available in a web accessible document via NMRA sponsored website or club website in the form of a "Modular Standards Specification Document" (MSSD). The MSSD shall be formulated and enforced by the Module Committee and Quality Control Committee utilizing NMRA On30 standards and established club module standards.

4.2 Individual members shall build modules and be responsible for the construction, supply of materials and final scenery design of their modules. This is to promote the participation in the NMRA Achievement Program across several categories (i.e structures, electrical, scenery, etc). Module ownership will rest with the individual modeler or module builder's designee as appropriate.

4.3 NMRA owned modules, if applicable, shall be "hosted" by a designated member and that member will be responsible for transport and maintenance of the module(s). NMRA owned modules shall be funded by the NMRA as required and shall be designated as common group modules. The Module Committee shall agree on designation of an individual or group to construct "NMRA owned" common group modules.

4.4 The scenic setting for the modular layout will be the type of scenery and topography common to the Pacific Northwest area generally west of the Cascades.

4.5 The overall size and design of the modular layout for any show or display will depend on how many modules are available and the space allowed. Final layout designs will be approved by Module Committee show participants prior to each event.

4.6 All equipment operated on the layout shall conform to NMRA standards as required. On30 rolling stock shall utilize NMRA HO standards for couplers. All locomotives shall be DCC equipped with analog features disabled. Sound equipped locomotives strongly encouraged. Further technical specifications shall be defined in the MSSD.

5. Module Group Signage:

5.1 The modular group shall have a placard or sign that can be prominently displayed for the public with a minimum of an NMRA logo and group logo. Multiple placards or signs may be utilized as required to ensure positive identification.

6. Control System:

6.1 The locomotive control system used on the modular layout shall be DCC. The chosen system will either be NCE or Digitrax and may use radio or other wireless hand held controllers such as JMRI WiFi Throttles. The modular group will own the booster, one control unit and at least one throttle.

6.2 Additional equipment may be owned/purchased by the 4th Division, PNR or the modular group and utilized at events as determined by the Module Committee Chairman and respective Division. The Module Committee Chairman will be responsible for these electronics. The decoders used in module owners locomotives and additional hand throttles will be provided by the operating members at their expense and shall conform to NMRA standards.

7. Operations:

7.1 Layout operations shall be designed to both provide exhibition for viewing public and also interest for modular group members. Operations should follow practices commonly used on permanent layouts to simulate prototype railroad operations whenever possible. A "Trainmaster" shall be designated for each event by the Module Committee Chairman. The Trainmaster shall devise and implement an operations scheme using common operations methods such as TTTO, Car Cards, switchlists or computer controlled car forwarding. The Trainmaster shall also ensure that when not formally operating the layout that a minimum of one train is constantly moving for display purposes.

8. Construction:

8.1 All module construction details shall be contained in the Module Standards Specification Document (MSSD).

9. Display:

9.1 The Modular railroad will be displayed as often as possible to help promote the NMRA and raise awareness of our organization. The attendance at any show will be determined by the module group as a whole. Any modular group member can ask the group to vote on attending a show or display. The display of the modular layout will be based upon the current National/Region/Division activities. The Module Committee Chairman is responsible for coordinating and approving modular event participation.

10. NMRA Owned Equipment:

10.1 The Pacific Northwest On30 Modular Group will be primarily funded through the PNR Division in which the Module Committee Chairman resides. All equipment purchased with funds supplied by the NMRA that belongs to the modular group will be the responsibility of the Module Committee Chairman or a member so designated.

11. Cost to the Division:

11.1 Any funding or grants supplied to the Module Group by the NMRA shall be approved by the appropriate NMRA Division BOD as required. Requests for funding/grants for specific materials or expenses shall be detailed and submitted by the Module Committee Chairman as per applicable NMRA Division By-Laws and directives to the respective Division Superintendent for BOD consideration.

11.2 As required, for common NMRA owned modules, the Module Committee Chairman shall submit for BOD approval a request for start-up money before construction is started and/or equipment acquired. A detailed list of module construction expenses shall be provided to the Division upon request as required.

12. Dissolution:

12.1 Should the module group be disbanded through inactivity, vote or decree, then all Division owned materials (for example, the DCC station and booster) will be returned to the Division for sale or other disposition as the Division Officers see fit. Members and former members of the Module Committee/group will no longer be able use their modules to represent the Division. Former members may display their modules as long as any references that may lead the general public to believe that they are representing the Division must be removed from the module.