



Pacific Northwest Division

LOGGER

January/February 2007

TREASURE VALLEY PHOTOS – PHIL MYERS' HOME AND THE "FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS"



TCA Treasure Valley Secretary, Phil Myers putting on another great train show.



Two boys each having fun sharing the experience of running trains with Lionel Cab-1 remotes



Georgia Siehl, Kent Moehlmann and Rich Ledyard enjoying the holiday goodies.



TCA TV Member Kurt von Tagen helping a little girl run the toy trains.



Children's Hands-on Digital "O" Gauge Toy Train Layout (Exerpts of Terry Smith's report from Treasure Valley)

Soon after the Boise, Idaho Treasure Valley TCA Chapter Idaho formed 3 ½ years ago, President Bill von Tagen set a goal that the chapter should initiate a project to promote and expand the "O" gauge toy train hobby.

A number of the members, including Terry Smith and Rich Murgoitio, Project Co-Chairs, started developing plans for a portable modular layout that would reflect the current interest of computer-savvy kids and to provide them an "educational" opportunity to learn how to operate trains with walk-around remotes. The chapter members decided upon two absolutes: One), that the layout would operate with Lionel TMCC Cab-1 remotes and /or MTH DCS remotes, Two), that the trains would be operated by the children.....not by balding, potbellied aging men.

In the spring of 2005, a number of chapter members hurriedly constructed an 8' x 17' layout for the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Boise Depot. During the building process, members started making cash donations to build the table. For that first event, April 17 & 18, 2005, almost all of the trains and accessories on the layout were borrowed from the members. As a result of more member donations, a \$2,300.00 grant from the Pacific Northwest Division (PNWD), donated items from the PNWD for fundraisers and accessories donated by Jim Barbee (Seattle Chapter), most of the trains and accessories are now owned by the chapter. Donations to date exceed \$8,000.00.

TCA Mission

To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains

The views expressed by the contributors to this publication are theirs and not necessarily the view of the Editor, Pacific Northwest Division or the Train Collector's Association.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last year was a very good year for the PNWD TCA. The \$5000.00 check presented in 2005 to the National Toy Train Museum in Strasburg, Pa has provided very good results. The memorial to Gary Lavinus has been completed. It is a simulated veranda of an Observation Car which has been placed in the TCA Train Museum Lobby. It is very visible and is well used during presentations.

Thank you, Dick and Barbara Flinchbaugh, for providing the PNWD TCA 3 super division meets, 2 at Chehalis and 1 at Ellensburg. The free barbeque dinner at Ellensburg was appreciated by all. We are looking for 3 more fantastic Division Meets this year.

The Treasure Valley Chapter and the Portland Chapter provided operating train shows for the public during the Christmas season.

The Treasure Valley Chapter had 2 shows. A number of the members, including Terry Smith and Rich Murgoitio, Project Co-Chairs, built a portable modular layout that reflects the current interest of computer-savvy kids and provides them an "educational" opportunity to learn how to operate trains with walk-around remotes. The chapter members decided upon two absolutes: One), that the layout would operate with Lionel TMCC Cab-1 remotes and /or MTH DCS remotes, Two), that the trains would be operated by the children.....not by balding, potbellied aging men. The Meridian Wreath Festival at St. Lukes Meridian Medical Center and the St. Alphonsus Medical Center Festival of Trees at The Grove Convention Center in Boise were a superb success with the attraction of approximately 1200 children. Also, they passed out 30 applications for people interested in the TCA. Great job Treasure Valley.

The Portland show was equally successful with 450 attendees (including club members), 638 pounds of food and \$270 were donated to the Organ Food Bank. An additional \$105 was donated for the upkeep and maintenance of the Aloha Club house. Both the Treasure Valley and Portland Chapters did an outstanding job this year.

An informational query of the Seattle Chapter members indicated that they are interested in supporting a train show at some of the events in the Seattle area. I have checked with the train station at Issaquah. They indicated that they would be interested in us running trains during some of the events. It is possible that we can run trains at the Snoqualmie train museum and at a children's hospital this year I will work to see where we might provide train shows for the children.

The Treasure Valley Chapter President, Bill von Tagen and the Seattle Chapter President, Dick Walters will retain their positions. They will continue working hard to get good participation at the chapter meets. Tom Steeves has resigned as president of the Portland Chapter leaving this position open. The PNWD Division needs to have a Portland area member volunteer for this position. Tom Steeves has done an outstanding job supporting the PNWD TCA through the Portland Chapter and as Co-Chairman of 2005 Convention in Seattle. Tom will be missed.

The Division officers are as follows: Frank Geczi (President), Dick Flinchbaugh (Vice President), Barbara Flinchbaugh (Treasurer), J. Mike Bowerman (Secretary), Steve Ramsdall (Member at Large Position 1), and John Kerry (Member at Large Position 2).

There still are a few extra K-Line add on tool cars for the Boeing 2 car airplane set if anybody wants to order one from Barbara Flinchbaugh.

Here's looking forward to a rewarding year collecting, and operating toy trains for the enjoyment of both children and adults in our area.

Respectfully Submitted

Frank Geczi
President of the PNWD TCA

Editor's Comments

Again, as Logger Editor, I was privileged to receive the wonderful information and pictures from the Treasure Valley Chapter as well as the very interesting write-up provided by Tom Steeves (past president of the Portland Chapter.) A remarkable job they have done – very small chapters and still so much has happened. As a member of the Seattle Chapter, I am ashamed and very disillusioned by the lack of support from our local TCA chapter members. Usually volunteers never come forward (except for very few and the same ones all the time) to participate in local events. The only thing on the minds seem to be "how many trains can I sell" and when will the next public meet be so I can hopefully sell more. Is this all that is thought about. How about the words in the TCA mission statement which are: "To develop an appreciation of and to preserve an important segment of history – Tinplate Toy Trains – through research, education, community outreach, fellowship, establishment of collecting standards, and to promote the growth and enjoyment of collecting and operating toy, model and scale trains"

It surely seems to me that both the Treasure Valley and Portland Chapters have found the answers and they are working very hard to promote TCA. MY HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO BOTH!!!

The above words reflect only the feelings of Barbara Flinchbaugh, LOGGER Editor and TCA Member 98-39242.

As TCA members worked with kids from toddlers to teenagers, they could see that they were making headway towards the goal of expanding the hobby. The excitement on the faces of the children and the constant question from parents, “where can we purchase trains like these?” supports the worthwhile activity.

The photos were taken at the *Festival of Trees* at The Grove Convention Center in Boise, November 25 and 26 and Phil Myers’ home Christmas Party for the Treasure Valley members.

The Treasure Valley TCA Chapter received an invitation this week from the *Festival of Trees* to once again provide the *TCA Children’s Hands-on Digital “O” Gauge Layout* at next year’s event. With such good volunteerism from the TCA Chapter Members, and their obvious enjoyment of working with the kids, it is likely that the chapter will vote to do it again. It is estimated that more than 1,200 kids ran trains at the *Festival of Trees*.

Jill Aldape, Director of the *Festival of Trees* reports that 40,000 people attended the 23rd annual festival, 10,000 on Saturday and Sunday while the layout was being provided as a kids’ activity. More than \$400,000.00 was raised for the construction of a new intensive care unit for the hospital.

Some of Jill’s comments about the *TCA Children’s Layout* were: “The trains added a special element, something new and fun for the kids to participate in. There’s just something about Christmas and trains. It was special to have the train activity there for the kids on Family Day. We would love to have the TCA at the festival again next year.”



Overhead view of the 17' x 8' Children’s Hands-on Digital “O” Gauge Toy Train Layout.

TCA TV Chapter Member Jim Armstrong showing a young train convert how to use the Cab-1 Control



TCA TV Chapter Members David Siehl and Rich Murgioitio overseeing the Children’s Hands-on Layout.

TCA TV Chapter Member Mike Peck helping a little gal learn to love toy trains.



REMEMBER

YOU CAN SEE THE LOGGER IN BEAUTIFUL COLOR – JUST LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE: www.traincollector.org ENTER THE SITE & click on NEWSLETTERS - - ENJOY!!!

Greetings from the Big Sky Country:

Nearly two-thirds of the members have already renewed their dues. It is greatly appreciated. However, for all of those that have not renewed as yet, I have included the 2007 dues form for your use.

Dues after January 1st are set at \$15.00

You will not receive the Logger and your name will be dropped from the membership roster if your dues are not paid by March 1st

Thanks a million,
Barbara Flinchbaugh, Treasurer

All is well in Montana - Dorene and I are enjoying our new home. Life here is slower and very relaxing. **NO GRID LOCKS!**

As Chairman for the Train Collectors Association Boundary Committee, I received a letter from your TCA Pacific Northwest Division President, Frank Geczi, requesting a boundary change to include Western Montana within the area of the Pacific Northwest Division. The motion was approved by the membership at the October 2006 Division Meet.

I have forwarded Frank's letter to the other members of the Boundary Committee and will discuss this request with them.

I plan to insert this request in my annual report to the National TCA Officers and Directors and this subject will be discussed at the next Board of Directors meeting in June of 2007.

Happy New Year.
Merle J. Parise.

Riding the Rails in the Good Old Days – Part III

Adventures on the Atlantic Coast Line

It was August, 1994 when my unit received the first three-day passes at Ft. Bragg, N. C. For me, that meant two days on the rails to spend one day at home. Of course I did it!

I escaped the oppressive heat, mosquitoes, army routine and the barracks. I got into line early as the passes were handed out at the orderly room.

By 5:00 p.m. I was getting off the bus at the ACL station in Fayetteville, N.C. The crowd at the station was too large for the small station platform and spread out along the track. The train came in an hour and a half late and all clambered aboard after a small number of passengers got off. Of course, all seats were taken and seats were offered only to women with small children. We were in a heavyweight coach which contained notices informing passengers that it was air conditioned. In 1944, such cars had large bunkers underneath which contained large blocks of ice. As the train moved, the air rush passed over the ice and into vents which cooled the car. It worked well enough until the crush of war time rail traffic was more than could be handled with dispatch. The large volume of traffic meant we would be in the hole repeatedly.

About half way to Washington D.C., we took the siding for the 10th or 11th time. No motion for the car meant no cool air coming through the vents. The heat was unbearable. The car had no more room for passengers standing. Sweat was running down our faces; children were screaming and distraught mothers were trying to comfort them to no avail. As a trainman came through the car, he was overwhelmed with queries as to why the car was so hot. He gave the stock answer; "This car is air conditioned". In such cars, windows were not made to be opened. After the trainman had passed to the next car, one soldier alleviated the problem by smashing a window with a bottle and in short order several more windows were broken. Thus we survived!

Most of us stood from about 6:30 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. the next morning when we would arrive in Washington's Union Station. But short and thin soldiers found a way to lie down. Above the seats was a luggage rack of steel rods mounted through cast iron support braces. By re-arranging luggage, such fellows could lie down and sleep in the luggage rack but I always wondered how those rods felt – what I did know was how I felt after standing for more than twelve hours.

Of course, I would find relief in the morning. The PRR ran trains from D.C. to New York about every hour. I boarded a P70 coach, took a seat and smiled as a venerable GG-1 with 18 cars on its tail eased out of the station and up a 2% grade for two miles and on to the four-track mainline. At 90 to 100 MPH, open coach windows made everyone happy and soon I would be home. The return to Ft. Bragg was a re-run.

I felt sorry for the sudden demand that was made upon smaller railroads with limited trackage but the crews performed valiantly and did their best to overcome the problems and obstacles which hindered them.

Submitted by S. Wm. "Bill" Hollingsworth

Portland Chapter News and Information

FAREWELL TO TOM STEEVES

Perhaps most of you know but for those that don't, Tom Steeves is stepping down as President of the TCA Portland Chapter to pursue other volunteer activities and travel, after about seven years in this position. Please do not misunderstand – he is not walking away from the club and the clubhouse, but is pulling back from active management tasks - it is time to move on to other opportunities. As most of you know, Tom has been the backbone of the Portland Chapter and we will miss him very much as a member of the Pacific Northwest Division Board of Directors as well.

We all wish Tom the very best in the New Year and forever after.

The Pacific Northwest Division TCA Board of Directors

The following are excerpts from an article submitted by Tom Steeves: For all the train collectors, operators, and supporters in the Greater Portland Area, here are the results of our 7th Annual Open House for the TCA Portland Chapter:

We had the greatest and most successful Open House at our clubhouse that we have ever had in the seven years we have been holding them. Here are the numbers:

450 - Attendees, including club members.

638 - Pounds of food donated to the Oregon Food Bank

\$270 - Dollars donated to the Oregon Food Bank

\$105 - Dollars donated to the upkeep and maintenance of the clubhouse

This success was due to several factors, as best as I can tell:

- 1) The weather was beautiful, particularly compared to last year when it started snowing at 1:00pm and turned everyone away.
- 2) Rick Walker, the owner of Aloha Wind and Brass inside the Aloha Mall invited some school children with musical instruments to play Christmas tunes inside and outside the mall - this added to the festive atmosphere.
- 3) Publicity this time all came together to our advantage. The advertising flyers were delivered in large quantities to all of the ten hobby stores; A flyer, along with a letter was sent to five newspaper entities asking for notices to be placed in their holiday events listings; And, Jerry Boone, an Oregonian Columnist, wrote an absolutely marvelous piece about our clubhouse and the upcoming open house that appeared in the Washington County Section of Thursday's paper.

We held our normal Third-Sunday-of-the-Month TCA Portland Chapter Train Meet from 8am to Noon, when trains were bought and sold among members, and we had a very good turnout. From a sales standpoint, most of the sellers were pleased with what they did sell during the day. The Open House actually began about 11:30, and the train room was PACKED solid from then on with adults and children for over three and one-half hours. Attendance was almost doubled over previous years, and donations to the food bank were tripled. What was so much fun for the membership was to see the delighted looks on the faces of the kids, and to see so many families return for the second, third and fourth years for this event. What was so amazing was that many people stayed for an hour or more just to watch the trains run. This year we did have many more operating accessories with push-buttons for the kids, as well as a TV Camera Car that depicted the trackside view seen from an Engineer's perspective - those did capture attention of most people.

As an editorial comment - I think this experience speaks well to the future of our hobby and based upon this outcome, I would be confident to predict that the Worlds Greatest Hobby on Tour "road show" scheduled for the Portland Expo Center 17-18 February will also be a big success.

This Open House could never have been a success without supporters. First of all, to our members who came out to participate, to buy and sell trains and toys, to bring trains to run on the layouts, and to donate food to the Oregon Food Bank. Second, to Robert Young, our landlord and owner of the Aloha Mall for his willingness to lease the space to our club, and his tireless support over the past eight years. To Rick Walker, the owner of the Aloha Wind and Brass music store in the mall for his great idea about musical accompaniment to this event. Then to Bill Brant, Rob Cook, Dwanye Cole, Diesel Dave, Steve D'Ambrosia, Ray Gallahan, Lynn Nystrom, Terry Parker, Rick Rose, and Bob Slauson, who all came early to help set up, or to run trains, and stayed late to clean up and put things away.

We must not overlook Jerry Boone - our SPECIAL THANKS go out to him for the superb article he wrote in the Oregonian. He came to our normal November meet, took photos, and interviewed members then wrote that great article. Many people commented that they saw the article about the Open House in the Oregonian and all of our members particularly like the accompanying nostalgic piece about old Engine #302 that appeared next to the article - it evoked many memories in all of us. Thanks again Jerry !!

Seattle Chapter News and Information

Our New Year 2007 will commence train activities with the Seattle Chapter's meet on January 26th at the Lake City Community Center with doors opening for trading at 9:00AM. It will have been since November that we have had a meet, so be ready for some great table sales and live auction material!

Bring trains to sell!!!

Our early 2007 calendar of continuing Seattle Chapter train meets will include the following dates:

January 26, 2007	April 22, 2007
February 25, 2007	May 2007 – <u>NO CHAPTER MEET</u>
March 25, 2007	June 24, 2007

You are always encouraged to bring guests to our meets - It is certainly one more opportunity for interested persons to become members!

On behalf of your board, I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year!

Dick Walters
President, TCA Seattle Chapter

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE DIVISION MEETS

There are some changes to the
2007 PNWD Division Meets.

- Hall now opens at 8:00 a.m.
- Silent Auction will begin immediately and be over @ 11:00 a.m.
- Regular Auction will begin at 11:30 and continue to its conclusion
- New registration form – (separate page) – please fill out and indicate in the proper boxes if you will be just registering or you want tables as well.

If you do not indicate that you want tables and how many, **no extras tables ordered.**
Only the tables needed will be reserved.

All members are encouraged to pre-register. It is essential for the planning. (Coordination with the Western Washington Fairgrounds personnel for the number of tables is required 2-3 weeks in advance. If we don't reserve enough – there may not be any available at the last minute.)

Please read the article on the separate page regarding the fall meet in October.

WANT ADS

WANTED:

Prewar and postwar Lionel original boxes.
If you have any you will sell, please contact:

Larry Moore 206-542-1448

WANTED:

**K-Line TCA 1995 Seattle Convention 5-unit
"spine" car.**

Please contact Dick Walters @ 253-565-2371 or

FOR SALE

Information received from Bill Read (TCA # 70-3113)

Bill is now residing in @ 4314 Los Padres Drive, Fallbrook, CA 92028. His ALS has progressed to the point that returning to his Northwest home would be just too difficult. He misses seeing all his old TCA friends. He has, however, an important piece of Northwest History – THE CHRISTMAS WINDOW DISPLAY of the "Grand Leader Department Store" of Everett, WA – Circa 1950. It is a 4 x 8 "S" gauge double helix layout made by a California firm. The display is in excellent condition - the rail is stripe steel in wooden ties. With proper care, two trains can run - one up and one down. It is located at his home in Mill Creek, Washington so can be picked up.

PRICE: \$500.00

To discuss please contact Bill at 760-723-7531

In Memory of

R.E. (Bob) Smith, TCA # 84-21233

Bob passed away on suddenly and unexpectedly on December 15, 2006. The PNWD expresses their heartfelt sympathy to the family.

**IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY
CONFUSION REGARDING THE 2007
DATES THAT HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED FOR THE PNW
DIVISION MEETS IN CHEHALIS,
THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

FEBRUARY 11

JUNE 10

OCTOBER 27/28 (2 day meet)



The Pacific Northwest Division Community Outreach Recipient

Faith Schwickerath, a cerebral palsy victim who adores model trains, is shown above.

A model train layout for a Community Outreach Project was approved by the PNWD BOD and subsequently designed and built by Richard Flinchbaugh for Faith. He had a lot of help from Frank Geczi. The table could only be 3 ft. x 4 ft. so a train with a very small radius curve track was found – the ETS Streetcar. It has lighted LeMax buildings and even a couple of switches so with help from her family, she can now enjoy her own train at home. Faith's father takes her to each and every train event they can find and even attended our 2005 convention to see all the layouts that were in the public viewing area.



Richard and Barbara Flinchbaugh wanted to share their Department 56 train layout that they have in their bedroom every year. It is 7 ft. x 8 ft. with the track running around the perimeter. Each year they run a different train and this year, since the final car for the Boeing 2-car set was received (thanks to Lionel for stepping up to the plate and making it all happen & provide the special K-Line cars that had been ordered by different groups) they decided to run the "Boeing train". It is even pulled by the model of the same engine that BNSF uses on their line when the "REAL CARS" travel from Wichita to Renton with the fuselage sections on the flat cars.



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The Logger can be viewed in color

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION REGARDING THE 2007 DATES THAT HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE PNW DIVISION MEETS IN CHEHALIS, THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FEBRUARY 11

JUNE 10

OCTOBER 27/28 (2 day meet)

Portland Chapter Meets

The Portland Chapter meets are held the 3rd Sunday of the month at the Aloha Mall, 18631 SW Tualatin Valley Highway @ corner of SW 185th Ave., Aloha, OR 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Meeting and Auction, Tom Steeves (503) 644-2325

2007

January 21 – regular third Sunday TCA meet

February 11 – Spring Division Meet – Chehalis

Feb. 18 and Mar. 18 – regular third Sunday TCA meets
 April 15 and May 20 – regular third Sunday meets

June 10 - Division Summer Meet in Chehalis

June 17 and July 15 regular third Sunday TCA meet s
 Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18 – regular third Sunday meets

October 27/28 – Winter Division Meet – Chehalis

Seattle Chapter Meets

The Seattle Chapter meets are held the 4th Sunday of the month at the Lake City Community Center, 12531-28th Ave. NE, Seattle WA, Doors open 9:00 AM, Dick Walters (253) 565-2371

2007

January 26 – regular fourth Sunday TCA meet

February 11 – Spring Division Meet – Chehalis

Feb. 25, Mar. 25, April 22 – regular fourth Sunday TCA meets
 May – No TCA meet – this is Memorial Day weekend

June 10 - Division Summer Meet in Chehalis

June 24, July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, Oct. 22, – regular 4th Sunday meets

October 27/28 – Winter Division Meet – Chehalis

(No Seattle Chapter Meet in October)

November 25 - regular fourth Sunday TCA meet

No December meet in Seattle

**The World's Greatest Hobby show will be held at
 the Portland Expo Center on
 February 17-18, 2007**