



Pacific Northwest Division LOGGER

January/February 2009

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

With this New Year

There are some changes for the
PNW Division

LOGGER INDEX

- Page 1** New information for the February 8 , 2009 Division Meet
- Page 2** Presidents Message & Info about late dues .
- Page 3** Election Results
Seattle Chapter Updates
Feedback regarding "Is there something wrong" from Margaret McCoy
- Page 4** Another article from member, Jim Wickizer regarding the "Is there something wrong" article. Jim refers to the "Do Nothings and Don't Care" Members.
- Page 5** Jim Wickizer's article continued.
50th Car Information
- Page 6** Address Page & Meet Information

- The Division Meets will now be held at the Moose Lodge in Chehalis at 1400 Grand Ave. (The Moose Lodge is just a few blocks north of the SWW Fairgrounds and is identified very well on the map included with this LOGGER.)
- The meet registration fee will remain as always - \$10.00. However, for this inaugural meet, **the table fees will also be \$10.00 each.** There are a limited number of tables available so pre-registration is extremely important. We hope to be able to satisfy everyone's needs.
- Just like the members do in Lake City every month, each person will be required to help set up the tables and take them down when the meet is over.
- A Buffet breakfast will be available starting at 7:30 a.m. for those that wish to indulge in a fabulous meal - - **However, you must indicate on the registration form that you wish to participate in the breakfast.** The cost is \$6.00 each and you will receive a 'ticket' that you will present to the kitchen staff when you pick up your breakfast.
- Our new Treasurer, Jim Ryan, will not be back in the Seattle area until the end of January, 2009 so Frank Geczi has approved that Barbara Flinchbaugh may continue as the Treasurer for right now and all meet registration should still be mailed to Barbara.
- Barbara will also coordinate with Dave Walsh, V. President, as he is in charge of the meets. Name badges will be made and tickets will be provided for those who

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 50th anniversary cars have been distributed to all members who requested one before the deadline of December 1 2008. However there are a few members that did not attend the dinner celebration or request a 50th anniversary car. This was unfortunate since it was a celebration of

the division topped off with a special boxcar for the celebration. There are still a few remaining cars that are for sale at \$65.00 each.

The division elections have occurred. There were 84 valid ballots received and 1 invalid ballot that didn't have a signature or TCA number recorded. This was the best return of ballots for a division election. The officers who were elected this year are as follows; President - Frank Geczi, Treasurer - Jim Ryan and Board Member at Large - Steve Ramsdell. The remaining officers, Vice President, David Walsh, Secretary, Dick Walters and Board Member at Large, Dennis Tichi were elected for a 2 year term starting January 2008. Barbara Flinchbaugh has agreed to continue as Editor of the Logger since nobody has stepped up to take over the job. If there is somebody who is willing and able to take over the Logger please notify me or Barbara.

The Pacific Northwest Division winter meet on February 8, 2009 will be at the Moose Lodge Hall which is several blocks north of the SWW Fairgrounds. (See photos below). The Moose Lodge hall is cleaner and more attractive and has a paved parking lot. They will provide 40 tables with the rent which is all that is required unless we get a big increase in interest and attendance. The best part is that a \$6.00 buffet breakfast will be provided for the members. I think that this will be a good change. **The pre-registration form is required to be returned to participate in the breakfast. You will not be able to participate in the breakfast without a pre-registration breakfast ticket.**

The PNWD members who attend the Moose Lodge meet will be required to help set up the tables at the beginning and put them away at the end of the meeting. The meet cost is lower than the fairgrounds. With this lower cost, the board members will work to reduce the cost to the members attending.

Frank Geczi
President TCA PNWD



2009 DUES

WOW – did the members ever respond in paying their dues for 2009. At press time, less than 20 members out of 252 had not paid their dues and there is a “late” dues form in the LOGGER for those members only.

Congratulations to everyone. This is a record!!!

ELECTION RESULTS

The past election of officers resulted in a record for mailing in the ballots. **The official count was 84.** Some lacked the signature and /or the TCA number on so they could not be counted. Congratulations to all that participated.

Frank Geczi was re-elected President, James Ryan is the new Treasurer and Steve Ramsdell is the returning Member-at-Large.

Results submitted by Richard Walters, Secretary
PNWD TCA

Seattle Chapter Summary

As we begin the 2009 season, it is important to remind members of the recently approved \$5.00 Seattle Chapter door fee and to review the Seattle Chapter schedule for the first half of the year.

The January and February Lake City meets will be held, as usual, on the usual 4th Sunday of the month (**1/25/09** and **2/22/09**). However, the March meet will not be held on the usual 4th Sunday of the month but, as a result of our 2009 rent negotiations with the Lake City Community Center, it will be held on **3/29/09**, one week later than usual.

On the following Saturday, **4/04/09**, will be the first of the 2009 Layout and Collection tours at the Bremerton home of Steve and Gretchen Ramsdell. Steve's meticulous O-Gauge layout was originally displayed to TCA members during the 2005 National Convention layout tours. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the finest operating layouts in the Pacific Northwest.

The April meet will return to the 4th Sunday (**4/26/09**) of that month.

Because of conflicts with Memorial Day in May and the Pacific Northwest Division meet in June there will be no Seattle Chapter meets during those two months. Puget Sound area members will be reminded of this schedule on Seattle Chapter postcards.

As demonstrated last year the summer months are an excellent time to host a Layout and Collection tour. Please contact Ed and Pat Anderson, or myself, to schedule one of these rewarding events. See you in Lake City.

Mike Bowerman
Seattle Chapter President

Greetings from California

The article, "IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?" by Barbara Flinchbaugh really got my attention. Thank you for having the courage to speak out and tell it like it is. I do hope that at least a few members will give this some thought and then do something about it.

I am so pleased that Barbara will be working to keep this great news letter going. I am so sorry for those who do not bother to read it as it always has so much good information in it.

I have enjoyed the LOGGER so very much, especially since I moved to California. It brings many good memories of old friends and meetings.

What a joy it was adding my special PNW Division 50th Anniversary Car to my display of trains. It made my McCoy trains jealous but they are now welcoming their little friend. Many thanks for it.

I truly miss my old friends and the meetings that brought us together. The train organizations were built on friendships and the pleasure of collecting and playing with trains. They flourished and grew because many members donated their time and energy filled with fun and ideas. If we members allow the division to diminish, our loss will be far greater than I can express.

Happy Holidays to you,

Margaret McCoy
TCA # Life 66-1647

The above words and thoughts represent the expressed feelings and personal opinions of Margaret McCoy. They do not reflect the views of the Editor, the Pacific Northwest Division or the Train Collectors Association

I GUESS "ONE OF THE DO NOTHING, DON'T CARE, WHY ARE YOU A MEMBER" NEEDS TO SPEAK OUT

By Jim Wickizer

I attended one of the "other guy's meet this fall in Chehalis and that is where I ran into Barbara and Richard Flinchbaugh and our conversation came around to the topic of Barbara's article in the last Logger – so here goes.

I have been a member since 1991 so I have been around for a little while.

Glenn Phillips brought me in and boy, was I excited to start with, but slowly things started to derail after that. I am going to share a few experiences with you and believe me, there are many more but I can't write that long.

And I, as any new member, was living/lovin train meets. I remember buying a Lionel Bridge Girder car. I ask the older long time member if it was original and he assured me it was. Now remember, I am just starting out and I have to rely on people to be truthful. I didn't have books to go on or knowledge at the time. When I showed my \$60.00 original load car to a friend who collected Lionel, he laughed, not only was the load wrong, it was a Marx Girder. How was I supposed to know. I took that one on the chin and promptly spent \$30 for a used Greenberg book. So you ask why not take it back? How about new member versus a 25 year vet, sweet old guy, "that's not the one I sold you" and so on.

Let's go to the next little prize – a Fort Knox Car pulled out of the box halfway by the seller. He said it to be mint. I paid full book price, but that was okay for a mint in the box car. When I got home and pulled my new treasure out of its box, a broken ladder appeared on the part of the car I hadn't seen. Next meet I took the car back but before I confronted the member, I asked a couple of learned, trusted friends about how to approach the seller. They both told me to feel lucky I had only spent \$110.00 – other folks had lost much more. I guess this member will go to great lengths, including letters from his lawyer if you try to accuse him of bad dealing and yes, he too is a long time member, an executive officer, considered a "god" among train collectors.

The next little jewel happened when I bought my first 400E. A member, "big Kahunna member" sold me a 400E. He "gave me a good deal". Said it was all original. He was having a slow day so he sold it to me for \$1000.00.

Con't.

He took cash and my credit card to make the sale. I did notice the tender was black, but had a little blue showing underneath. He assured me that Lionel did that at the factory to use up inventory – probably was a Blue Comet Tender and they repainted it to send it out with a black 400E. It sounded OK to me, especially coming from my trusted TCA brother. When I got home, I decided to clean it up a bit and when I disassembled it a little too much, I noticed the letters M.T.H stamped on the frame. That was a lot of money to spend in 1994 to get a repo and a repaint. I know I discussed this one in Chehalis and Dick mentioned that guys who buy and sell so much that they probably didn't know but I think to that point alone of the volume he deals in, he should of or if he wasn't sure, at least said so. Let's move on, even though there is more because it took me about six years or more to get real smart about who to deal with and who not to.

Let's now go to auctions. The old gentleman, bless his heart – who is not with us anymore, who would buy everything on the tables or raise things by 25 cent to wear you down. I left before the auctions after 5 years of that crap. I know there wasn't much of anything you could do about that I guess. But imagine being dumped on a quarter at a time until finally the auctioneer would tell him to knock it off and also him running the price up twice the book high, just to see how bad you wanted it only still to outbid you cause he had more money than you, even on some junk, just because you wanted it. He delighted in that.

I would hear that he was sick or get a call from someone at the meet that he wasn't there and I would jump in my truck and drive very fast to get there in time for the auction so I could get some deals. What about this stuff that sat on the auction tables, but somehow (against the rules) wasn't on the table when the auction started and/or the box that had 6 ALCO cabs in it but when the auction started – only had 5.

Let's move on to the meets. As you wait in the aisle and notice a table with a certain thing showing, you get there first and it's miraculously not on the table anymore but you see a fellow member walking around with it later, even though it was there, disappeared and reappeared. Amazing isn't it. How about all that wasn't put on the table that you can see, but later one of the chosen few is walking around with it.

50th Anniversary Cars

Con't. from previous page - -

I know people deal with one another but how about not on the trading floor where it can be confused with "under the table dealings".

What about all that whispering that goes on before trading. Like the time I followed the whisperers to a table and up popped some American Flyer Circus stuff that was under the table and as soon as the whisperer got through voicing what he wanted, the rest was on the table for sale. Well, there is a lot more but it's the same old story – different meet. I have sponsored over a dozen folks; none have stayed in the club. They can get a better price, better item and more honesty at a public train show than at a club meet and it didn't take them as long as me to find out.

Oh, and real quickly, let's mention those items that never sell but move from member (dealer) to member (dealer) for years and never sell but every year the price goes up and sometimes over book on the premise that with the new books coming out they will be worth more. What kind of thinking is that.

I do want to thank Glenn Phillips for sponsoring me and the guys I have learned to trust like the 2 Toms and 3 Teds, 2 Dennis's, Floyd and a few others. I enjoy talking with them and dealing fairly along with their help and advice as to whom to go to for real help.

So, this is a small view of my almost eighteen years. I stay in the club because I believe good times will still come as soon as the golden majority figure out that the members need fair prices, honest advice and interest in trains beyond the new victim with money. As far as helping, years ago I volunteered a few times but was passed over because I wasn't in the right click so I just stopped asking to be part of things.

One more time I think there is still hope, but it will take a concise effort. I still recommend the club to people I meet and still bring guests to the open meets.

I hope some of this will be heard; I also know bad habits are hard to break.

The above words and thoughts represent the expressed feelings and person opinions of James Wickizer. They do not reflect the view of the Editor, the Pacific Northwest Division or the Train Collectors Association.

There are some 50th Anniversary Cars remaining.

We did have some members that did not send in the form with the \$7.00 shipping fee for their cars or didn't respond by the December 1st, 2008 Deadline.

At the November 23rd Chapter Meet in Lake City, members were asked if any would be interested in obtaining extra cars after the December 1st deadline and many were interested. Order forms were provided and those members have had their orders filled. To be fair, we want to have all members that might be interested in obtaining an extra car to be able to do so.

An order form is enclosed – don't wait too long – there are only a few cars left.

Again, never before has any TCA Division provided a "free car" to their members for any reason or celebration.

The fact that the cars are all individually numbered makes them even more valuable.

All who have received their cars have been extremely pleased.

DON'T MISS OUT THIS TIME.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 ENTER THE SITE & click on
 NEWSLETTERS -- ENJOY!!!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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, Contact - - Steve D'Ambrosia, 503-658-4383

The Portland Chapter Open House that was snowed out in December will now be held on January 18, 2009. Come one, come all – enjoy the festivities. See flyer included.

We hope everyone can support the Portland Food Bank with generous donations.

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, Contact - - Mike Bowerman. 425-778-8750

See the Seattle Chapter Summary for specific new dates for 2009.

The first meet at Lake City will be January 25, 2009