



Pacific Northwest Division L O G G E R

January/February 2010



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DIVISION MEET AT THE MOOSE LODGE – FEBRUARY 7, 2010

The registration page for the division meet is included with this edition of the Logger.

REMEMBER - - -

Breakfast (with lunch) is \$6.00

Lunch only is \$6.00

Check the proper boxes on the registration form

2010 DUES

The PNWD Secretary has been informed that several Division members have not paid their National TCA Dues and therefore have been dropped from the National roster.

If you have a "LATE" dues form with this Logger, your Division dues have not been paid and must be received by February 1, 2010 or your name will be dropped from our listing.

**REMEMBER – YOU MUST BELONG TO NATIONAL TCA TO BE A
DIVISION MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING.**

Last year, 90% members had paid their dues by the end of the year –
this year, only 65% have paid.

Thank you TCA members –

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL WHO ATTENDED

We hosted a wonderful TCA Christmas open house at our residence on December 5, 2009 that saw thirty members, family and friends enjoy fellowship, food, decorations and trains for three hours.

The weather definitely cooperated with clear skies and dry roads and attendees came from as far away as Everett, WA.

A special thanks to Ed and Patti Anderson who arrived early to assist in the set-up and help with the crowd-control (and we understand that Patti's foot has since improved greatly!).

The Christmas tree, nativity scenes and numerous other decorations in several rooms proved to hold the attention of those in attendance for the duration of the event.

The operating layout in the train-room was a big draw having better than a dozen operating post-war Lionel accessories and two Lionel trains in continuous action. A tip of the engineer's hat to TCA member John Mangan for wiring and setting up those accessories: Thank you, John!

Those who were there also saw what arguably could be one of the largest collections of modern-era bay window cabooses numbering over sixty of Lionel's finest.

We enjoyed all of your participation, and it was truly a labor of love preparing for this event!

Our best,
Dick and Sandy Walters

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.

President

Frank Geczi
12508-206th Pl. S. E.
Issaquah, WA 98027
Phone: 425-271-1547
e-mail: FrankGeczi@aol.com

Vice President

Richard C. Flinchbaugh
36066-57th Ave. So.
Auburn, WA 98001
Phone: 253-939-2228
e-mail: rflinchbau@aol.com

Secretary

Larry May
1158 97th St. E.
Tacoma, WA 98445
Phone: 253-548-8411
e-mail: lwmay@harbournet.com

Treasurer/Logger Editor

Barbara Flinchbaugh
36066-57th Ave. So.
Auburn, WA 98001
Phone: 253-939-2228
e-mail: rflinchbau@aol.com

Seattle Chapter President

J. Michael Bowerman
4410 231st PL SW
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Phone: 425-778-8750
e-mail: jmbowerman@msn.com

Portland Chapter President

Steve D'Ambrosia
21920 SE Mark Road
Clackamas OR 97015-8756
Phone - 503-449-8756
email - slincoln52@hotmail.com

Treasure Valley Chapter President

Michael E. Peck
550 N. Sierra View
Eagle, ID 83616
Phone: 208-375-9464
e-mail: michaelpeck2001@yahoo.com

PNWD BOD Members at Large

Steve Ramsdell
3886 NE Roosevelt St.
Bremerton, WA 98311-9633
Phone: 360-478-6435
e-mail: stqrram@earthlink.net

Dennis Tichi

P.O. Box 529
Woodinville, WA 98072-1005
Phone: 425-788-8910
e-mail: goofytrainman@msn.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Elections are over. The new officers are Richard Flinchbaugh (Vice President); Larry May (Secretary) and Dennis Tichi (Member at Large). The remaining three officers Frank Geczi (President), Barbara Flinchbaugh (Treasurer) and Steve Ramsdall (Member at Large) have one more year to serve PNWD board. PNWD members need to determine who will replace the three remaining officers. They are retiring from the PNWD board and will not run for re-election for the term January 1, 2011 thru December 31, 2012.

The PNWD supported the World's Greatest Hobby Tour at the Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup Washington. This event occurred Saturday and Sunday, November 21-22. The Treasure Valley Chapter brought their Children's Hands on Layout from Boise, Idaho to support this event. They provided six Treasure Valley members and the Seattle and Portland Chapters provided an additional 18 Members. There were four trains running for the duration of the show. These trains were operated by the children after they were given some simple instructions on the operation of the TMCC controller. We gave them the controller and they operated the trains. Some of the children moved from one train to the next to operate all four. As can be seen on the pictures on pages 4 & 5, both the children and supporting PNWD TCA members had fun.

The November 2009 PNWD meet at the Moose Lodge was very successful which concluded with the auction of trains from the collections of John Granquist and Steve Peterson. On February 7, 2010 we are looking forward to another successful meet at the Moose Lodge with two great meals a hot breakfast and lunch for \$6.00. After lunch there will be an auction of more of John Ganquist's train collections. This auction will be primarily Lionel accessories, track and switches with some engines and cars as well.

The live steam outing at Nick Fisher's home on his garden railway was cancelled due to the death of a member in the live steam association. Nick is planning to reschedule the event in spring. When we get the information we will inform you of the dates.

TCA National, incorporated under Pennsylvania corporate laws, has updated their by-laws to be in line with the Pennsylvania corporate laws. This was required to maintain the TCA non-profit status. Since the PNWD is a rider to TCA National Corporation the PNWD by-laws need to be updated to come in line with the TCA rewritten by-laws and maintain our tax free status. Seven members have volunteered to help do the rewrite. If any other division members would like to help either in the rewrite or review of the revised by-laws please notify Frank Geczi (425) 271-1547

Frank Geczi,
President TCA PNWD

FOR SALE

I have a large quantity of Lionel postwar original boxes for sale: steam engines & tenders, operating cars, flat cars, gondolas, tank cars, box cars, cabooses & passenger cars. There are some prewar boxes & Flyer boxes too.

Please contact me at 206-542-1448 or email me at
Laurence.moore70@gmail.com

Our National TCA really needs our help!!!

Well, we did it. A great many PNWD members quickly responded to the need for donations to the National TCA and the PNWD BOD wishes to say "THANKS" to all who contributed. WELL DONE!!!!



SEATTLE CHAPTER NEWS

A New Schedule to Start a New Year

The Seattle Chapter has completed one of its best years in recent memory and looks forward to the upcoming season. Our new 2nd Sunday of the Month schedule will allow us to have ten or more meets a year. But we realize teaching an old dog new tricks is not going to be easy. Hence, getting used to the new schedule will be one of our biggest challenges for 2010. By the time some of you read this we will have held our Winter Meet on January 10th and will be preparing for February 14th and March 14th meets. The Spring Meets will be held on April 11th and May 9th.

Elusive Fish in the Sea

The biggest challenge will be the ever present task of maintaining a healthy attendance. Non-profit clubs are gradually feeling the pinch of ever increasing rents and the Seattle Chapter is no exception. We are fortunate to have use of Lake City Community Center (with its large floor and good facilities) for a very reasonable rent. But the cities and state, who are rather broke, are bearing down on the community centers. We were able to keep the 2010 rent in reason after making some minor concessions and we're looking good for the time being. What about down the road? We just can't pull the wool over our eyes. How do we keep our heads above water? It is the general consensus that raising the door fees is not the answer (\$5.00 for a chapter meet seems to be the acceptable limit for the time being). Reducing the number of meets will not decrease the rent per meet. The most reasonable answer is increasing attendance which is easier said than done. The Seattle Chapter has a very loyal following of about 40-50 TCA members. Their undaunted attendance is much appreciated and is what kept us going. But, eventually, that will not be enough. Members of the greater Puget Sound area only need to look around them to find the solution. Lake City lies in the largest pocket of TCA members in the Pacific Northwest. We just need to find a way to reel them in.

Santa Clause was good

The holiday season is a tough time to hold club meets. My personal calendar, as yours, fills up faster than Blitzen. But, as we all know, toy trains are an icon of the Christmas scene and stirs the holiday passion in many of us. Ignoring the advice of some, the Seattle Chapter scheduled not one, but two activities this last December. On Saturday, Dec. 5th, Dick and Sandy Walters held a wonderful open house for TCA members at their University Place residence. Thirty members and their guests took up the Walters invitation. They enjoyed not only their beautifully decorated home, but also a feast of edible goodies, their colorful European collections, and, last but not least, Dick's upstairs layout and train room (which, as most other layout and collection tours have shown, garnered most of the attention in the afternoon). Many thanks go to Dick and Sandy for their hospitality.

The real gamble was our December 13th Seattle Chapter Christmas meet. We wondered if a train meet would be well attended two weeks before Christmas. To entice members we considered many options but had to keep expenditures within our small surplus that developed because of a successful year. We ended up promoting free admission with free sandwiches and refreshments. Rick Dunn graciously helped out by bringing in the food plus a plentiful supply of his special spiced apple cider (the aroma was great). As advertised, the Lake City Community Center had the hall splendidly decorated with a big tree (that we circled with operating Lionel and Marklin trains) and wall to wall garlands and wreaths. Low and behold, 42 TCA members plus several of their guests showed up. We were told it may have been more but the snowy conditions kept some away. There were many complements and everyone seemed to have a good time. It was a successful conclusion to a good year. A special thanks to Rick Dunn for his help and Ed Anderson who set up a classic Marx layout for everyone to enjoy.

I would like to thank outgoing vice-president Ed Anderson and his wife Patti for the hard work they put into Seattle Chapter. Retired engineer Jim Ryan was elected in October to take Ed's place.

See you in Lake City - -

(Meets held every 2nd Sunday of the month except June and November).

Mike Bowerman, President / Seattle Chapter

PORTLAND CHAPTER NEWS

The December 20 meet was the annual Open House. The weather cooperated this year, at least to the extent that we weren't forced to compete with a blizzard. Tom Steeves, who in the past had kept amazingly accurate detailed counts of attendance by members of the public, was basking in the warmth of the southern latitudes, thus relegating the official count to a consensus opinion of the club members. When polled after the event, the counts ranged from 25 to 150, but I think we all agreed that the number was most likely in the 75-125 range. It's been a very unusual and challenging year, so I suppose this can be considered a success. There were many kids in attendance, and even a few adults who brought attic discoveries to run and chat about. One fellow had a very nice Lionel Burlington GP model which ran like a top after decades of storage. Further demonstrating the ability of Marx models to withstand hostile climates (and most likely nuclear attacks), his Marx steam engine also ran flawlessly.

We also collected food for donation to the Oregon Food Bank. It was heartening to see just how many people actually were thoughtful enough to remember to bring cans of food.

There were many purveyors of fine trains (aka, "vendors") with a fine selection of items for sale. The main floor hallway and the basement was filled with a wide variety of trains offered by Bob West, David Dansky, Terry Parker, Dwayne Cole, Rob Cook, Bill Brant, Steve D'Ambrosia and Marv Thompson.

We should extend a big thanks to Steve D'Ambrosia, Al Merris and Ray Gallahan who contributed their time and energies to help set up and/or tidy up the clubhouse after a long day!!

Rob Cook,
News Letter Editor, Portland Chapter



A balloon from Ft Collins, Colorado floats a bit off-course past kids who are pre-occupied with a large selection of trains and accessories to operate.



The Hogwarts Express was easily recognized by the younger attendees.

THE WGH SHOW IN PUYALLUP – NOV. 21/22, 2009

Over 22,500 people attended the 2-day event



The Children's Hands-On-Layout from Boise, Idaho. Six members from Boise made the 1,000 mile round trip to participate in WGH



Tom Steeves (L) from Portland, OR and Terry Smith (R) from Boise, ID surveying the layout. Four trains run at one time.



Mike Bowerman (Seattle Chapter President) has a whole family watching big sister run the trains.



Tom Borrud (Seattle Chapter Secretary) looks just as happy as the young fellow he is helping - Way to go, Tom.



Terry Smith (from Boise) and this young man are very intent on running those trains. Four trains can run at one time so it keeps the children on their toes.



Harry Kindleberber (also from Boise) has a very intensitive young man running those trains. That smile is worth a million \$\$



Paul Korsmoe (one of the founding members of the Pacific Northwest Division) helping a future "railroad engineer". What fun!!!



Richard Shaffner (a PNWD member came from Paulsbo, WA) looks like he is having just as much fun as this young lady and her mother. The children really loved those trains.



Matt Graves (Seattle Chapter Treasurer) is explaining just what to do to this young man - he stayed and stayed to run the trains a long time.

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Barbara Flinchbaugh, Editor
 Train Collectors Association
 Pacific Northwest Division
 36066-57th Ave. So.
 Auburn, WA 98001-9306



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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 next meet will be January 17, 2010

Seattle Chapter Meets

The Seattle Chapter meets are now held on the 2nd 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

REMINDER – MEETS ARE HELD ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH NOW!!

The next meet will be January 10, 2010