

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

Community Outreach

In late February, PNRA hosted the Association of King County Heritage Organizations (AKCHO) meeting at the Archive. Bob Kelly and I presented PNRA and the Archive's mission to the attendees. The meeting chair mentioned that it was one of the best attended AKCHO meetings in some time. Most of the people during their introductions expressed interest in PNRA's preservation mission, mentioned personal experiences or railroad material that was in their organization's collection.

In March, fans of the Milwaukee Road met at the Archive for a session of viewing photos, discussing railroad operations and socializing hosted by PNRA.

PNRA's traveling exhibit, *Rails to Sails* is scheduled to open its second run at the *North West Railway Museum* in Snoqualmie, Washington, on April 6 and will continue through July 5, 2013.

Information Requests

Railroads were an important factor in the locating of most of the communities in the western United States between 1880 and 1920. Thus, many of the railroads' documentation deal with communities along their right-of-ways. We continue to receive a steady stream of requests for information about communities and how they changed over time. Recent requests include:

- City of Redmond WA – Seek the origin of their depot built by the Seattle, Lake Shore & Eastern in the late 1880s.
- Kent Historical Society – Seek photos of the town of O'Brien WA on the Seattle to Tacoma mainline where many Irish initially settled.
- Puget Sound Energy – Seek maps and photos of the railroad operations at Concrete WA.
- Seattle Public Utilities – Seek photos and maps of the Milwaukee mainline operation which crossed the Seattle water shed.
- WA State Ski History Museum – Seeking information on skiing near Martin WA, promoted by the NP.



Chuck & Drew sort material on a Wednesday

Preservation Activities

The Wednesday Crew completed the initial sorting and filing of the AFE (Application For Expenditure) project files for the NP's Tacoma division that were received from the Tacoma Public Library. The next steps include cataloging the AFEs and merging the completed records with the catalog of the AFE's in the Jim Fredrickson collection. All records will then be made accessible to everyone by posting them on *NPRHA.org* to everyone. Ultimately, the crew plans to scan the first page of each AFE and link the images to their catalog record.

The Thursday evening crew completed sorting the Milwaukee Road material in the Cascade Rail Foundations collections at the Archive. Next the crew will catalog the material each box.

Friends of PNRA

Since PNRA is a Washington State non-profit corporation, our bylaws require that our "members" elect the individuals serving on the Board of Directors. However, we don't have individual members, per se. We have *Friends* – people interested in railroad preservation and in supporting the Archive by contributing funds and by volunteering their time. Both of these activities qualify someone to become a *Friend of PNRA* and to vote at our annual meeting held each November.

PNRA began in 2010 with the substantial support from individuals who funded the initial purchase of the building and the initial operations. PNRA will continue to raise funds to cover half of our monthly operating expenses until our Capital Campaign can significantly reduce our monthly mortgage payments.

Please consider making a yearly contribution to help PNRA pay our heat, light and other utilities. Such a contribution will make you a *Friend of PNRA* and someone who is helping preserve our important railroad history.

The other way to become a *Friend of PNRA* is by volunteering your time to work on the railroad material donated to one of our member Railroad History Organizations. A volunteer who works 30 hours or more each year is designated a Volunteer *Friend of PNRA*.

4Culture Grant Award

This quarter, PNRA was awarded a Sustaining Grant from *4Culture*, the King County organization that disperses funds to Arts & Heritage organizations in the County from the Hotel & Motel taxes. The grant will provide \$3,000 each year for two years in recognition of PNRA's making railroad history accessible to the Heritage Community in the County.

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Capital Campaign

PNRA's Capital Campaign committee is preparing documents for presentation to potential contributors during the Campaign's first phase. The Campaign will raise funds to make our facility into *A World Class Archive* and retire the mortgage. The committee was formed by the PNRA Board to set the Campaign strategy and direct the contact with our potential contributors.

Facility Improvements

- Two members of the Board of Directors contributed funds to complete the Boeing restroom and to replace the back door on the Boeing side of the main floor. This work is expected to be done this Spring.
- To ready the property for access from the rear of the building, we held work to clean up the area and rebuild the shipping dock into a landing a stairs. Fourteen Friends of PNRA worked for a half day to complete the job

Equipment Installations

- The mobile shelving donated to PNRA during the ICOS building remodel is being assembled on east side of the lower floor. The five sections, each 6' x 2' x 6.5' fit nicely in a small area in which static shelving was contemplated due to the restriction caused by the red pole in the photo. This shelving will store 24-inch long bankers boxes used for some of the train sheets in the collections.



The ICOS Mobile Shelving Being Assembled.

- The Tacoma Glass Museum offered a wide-format cutter used in exhibit preparation to the first non-profit to ask for it. PNRA responded quickly and was awarded the \$3,500 device. It is a precision cutting device, able to cut cardboard, wood and glass. Plans are to install it on the main floor near the office.
- The Xerox DC-12 color copier donated by Puget Sound Reprographics has been set up on the main floor. The unit will be used predominately as an auto-feed, 11" x 17" scanner and is accessible to all the PNRA computers via our wireless network.



March 3 Work Party Rebuilding Rear Porch.

Help Find Collections

PNRA's mission includes preserving the operating documents from the railroads that served the region. While our Archive is being completed, we can offer people who have collected historic railroad material, a place where their donations will be honored and preserved. If you are aware of a collection that will need a new home, please contact us, and we will help the collector or their family, make arrangements to donate it to the appropriate institution. Please act while there is still time to save the material!!

Opportunities to Help

There are many opportunities to help with PNRA's important work. Cataloging work crews meet regularly to prepare the documentation to be scanned cataloged, posted on the internet, and preserved. We are looking for additional volunteers to join the crews on Wednesday during the day, Thursday evening or a new crew that will work on the weekends.

These crew members work on specific tasks ranging from sorting and repacking boxes to entering document descriptions into a computer. New crew members are trained by experienced volunteers and enjoy working with their crew while preserving this important history of the Pacific Northwest region. If you live in the Puget Sound area, please consider joining a crew and helping preserve railroad history.

Silent Auction Results

The brass model shown in our last two editions of *Northwest News*, was won by the winning bid of \$1,000. Thank you to all who participated in the Auction and to North Bank Line for donating the model.

If you have questions about PNRA, its member-RHOs or how you can be involved, please contact me at the address information below.

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
2013-Quarter 1

