

NORTHWEST NEWS

We summarize each quarter's activities in a published progress report for the *Friends of PNRA*. This *Northwest News* covers activities of Quarter 2 of 2015.

Capital Campaign

The First Phase goal of PNRA's Capital Campaign is to pay off all the notes which initially totaled \$475,000, and funded the purchase of PNRA's building in Burien. Last quarter, the note principal was reduced by \$30,000 leaving the current total principal at \$445,000.

In June, the SP&SRHS paid \$6,505 toward their capital commitment when they became a member-Railroad Heritage Organization (RHO) of PNRA. Later that month, the Campaign received an individual donation of Microsoft stock which we sold for \$53,051. In early July, we received a \$5,000 contribution to the Campaign from the Moccasin Lake Foundation, a family foundation headed by James Pigott, grandson of the founder of Pacific Car & Foundry, a major supplier of railroad equipment located in the Puget Sound region.

PNRA previously received three challenge grants: James J. Hill III contributed \$25,000; the *Great Northern Railway Historical Society* gave \$25,000; and the *Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association* contributed \$50,000. By Sept. 1, 2015, we expect to have made additional mortgage payments totaling \$115,000, reducing the total note principal we owe to \$330,000.

Friends of PNRA

Our *Friends* provide PNRA with the power to achieve our mission. Two important ways you can be a *Friend of PNRA* and support our mission:

- **Join a work crew** which meets for sessions each Tuesday or Wednesday during the day, the first & third Thursday evening or the second and fourth Saturday during the day. Contact us for more details.
- **Contribute funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Mail a contribution to the address below to become a *Friend of PNRA* and support the Archive!!



The Tuesday crew working on the new carpeting on the Main Floor.

Archive Operations

The Main floor work area was carpeted in late May and vastly improved the work area by reducing sound levels and upgrading the general look and feel of the space.

Barry McLaren, a new volunteer started working on many of the electrical wiring projects required by our City of Burien building permit. Recently Barry completed the wiring the exit lights around the Receiving hallway, added a 220 volt circuit in Receiving, and added a new overhead light in the stairs to the lower floor.

Fred High, a Cascade Rail member has been working on permit-related projects, starting with fire-proofing the roof beam support poles on each floor. This involves enclosing the poles in a frame which is then overlaid with dry-wall sheeting to protect the steel from collapse in case of fire. Fred also received three bids on sealing and stripping our front parking lot on 153rd Street.

Bob Kelly installed new handrails on both sides of the stairs to the upper floor.

PNRA has other permit-related projects that need to be completed. If you would like to help PNRA in this way, please call us at the number below.



New overhead light, exit lights and new vinyl installed in the stairwell to the lower floor.

Heritage Services

In preparing information for reports to the summer conventions of our member-RHOs, we generated an impressive list of collections that have been posted on the RHO web sites maintained by the Archive volunteers. The following sites can all be accessed from links in the header of the *PNRArchive.org* site. The GN-NP Joint Archive site provides access to nearly thirty GN and NP document and photo collections and a comparable number of links to other relevant sites. The SP&SRHS data site recently had its Archive Index database updated to 6,285 records of the files preserved at PNRA. The Cascade Rail Foundation provides access to fourteen document collections and six photo collections of Milwaukee Road operations. The NPRHA site which has grown since 2003, provides access to eighty-five document collections, eighteen drawing collections and twenty-six photo collections.

Preservation Activities

Volunteers at the twelve Archive work sessions each month have been scanning and cataloging the following collections for posting on the RHO web sites. The Larry Schrenk NP Standard Plan collection of depots, roundhouses and buildings; Walt Ainsworth's GN print collection showing freight cars, diesels, train scenes, depots, etc.; the SP&SRHS subject folders preserved at the Archive continue to be indexed; the Mel Iszley NP Standard Plan collection of track structures and buildings; GN, NP, and Milwaukee Train Sheets; completing the Jim Fredrickson negatives not previously scanned and cataloged; Walt Ainsworth's NP Steam Locomotive photo print collection; James Turner GN photo collection; the Cascade Rail crew is cataloging foreman's time books from the Coast Division Electrification project; late 1940s Milwaukee Injury Reports from the Nighswonger collection; Walt Ainsworth's NP Location photo collections; the Dan Perkins Slide Collection of all railroads in Washington; and NP Tacoma and Idaho Division Station Plats from the Fredrickson and Ainsworth collections.

Community Outreach

This year's Washington Museum Conference (WMA) was held at the Art Museum in Maryhill, Washington, where Gary Tarbox was able to share



An upper storage cabinet has been added to the kitchen area.

PNRA's mission and operational story with many conference attendees. These contacts are important as PNRA joins the local and state heritage community, and they gave us a chance to learn about each other's organizations. These contacts help our program of creating railroad-related, educational exhibits for display at museums in the region. Our first exhibit, *Rails-to-Sails* was displayed at the White River Valley Museum in Auburn before moving on the Northwest Railway Museum in Snoqualmie, Washington.

The WMA conference held many good break-out sessions during the two-day meeting. *Putting People First: Retaining Human Capital* had four presenters who discussed what worked in their organizations, and *Getting Personal: Raising Your Heritage Organization's Visibility Using*

Personal Contacts told how the West Seattle Historical Society built enthusiastic support from their community by staging crowd-sourced events. A key session at Maryhill discussed the criteria needed to apply for funding from the Heritage Capital Projects program allocated by the Washington State Legislature. This program supports the capital needs of organizations that interpret and preserve Washington's history and heritage. It requires a two to one match of project funds, which means the program will fund up to one-third of a major capital project. The matching funds can be accumulated over the previous five years before submitting a funding application.

Help Preserve Collections

Many collections of Pacific Northwest railroads documents, maps or photos will need a new home in the future, but the owners or their families may not know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is critical that we talk with the responsible people before the collections are discarded. PNRA has a significant amount of Archive space where collections will be honored and preserved. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
2015-Quarter 2 *Northwest News*



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