

PACIFIC NORTHWEST RAILROAD ARCHIVE

NORTHWEST NEWS

The *Friends of PNRA* receive this progress report summarizing the activities at the Archive during the third quarter of 2017.

Annual Membership Meeting

PNRA's Annual Membership Meeting will be held **Nov. 8, 2017**, at the Archive and will be preceded by a Pizza Supper to celebrate our *Friends of PNRA*. Our *Friends* volunteer their time at Archive work sessions, and contribute funds to help cover PNRA's operating costs. If you worked more than 30 hours or contributed \$50 or more in the last twelve months, you are a *Friend of PNRA* and entitled to vote at our Annual Meeting.

Please plan to attend our **Pizza Celebration on Nov. 8th at 6:00 PM**, followed by PNRA's Annual Membership Meeting and Quarterly Board Meeting. **All Friends of PNRA are invited to attend!!**

PNRA & BEMRRC Holiday Open House

With the success of our 2016 Holiday Open House, PNRA and the *Boeing Employees Model Railroad Club* will hold our second annual open house at the Archive. This year the event will be held on **Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 24-26, 2017, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM each day**. Plan to enjoy the operating model trains and tours of the Archive, either as part of the Open House staff, or with your family and friends.

Preservation Activities

In mid-August, Rachael Cristine Woody was hired as PNRA's Digital Archive Project consultant. Rachael reviewed the syntax used in our digital databases which the Digital Archive Team (DAT) will use to catalog the international-standard database. Meanwhile, PNRA's InfoTech team has been working to configure a copy of the Access-to-Memory platform on a server at the Archive that the DAT will use in their cataloging work.

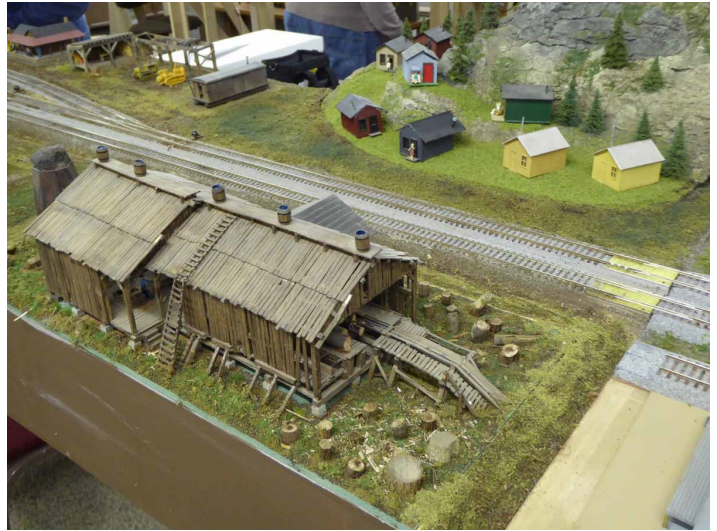
Bill Petryk completed the catalog of the digital material created since the Archive started operations in 2012. PNRA's digital files currently fill 5.9 terabits of storage, and are backed up at least two locations, one of which is maintained away from the Archive building.

PNRA member, Kurt Armbruster is finishing a book on the Pacific Coast Railroad. Kurt and Warren Wing had started the book before Warren passed away in 2011. PNRA and *Maple Valley Historical Society* are partnering to share PCR photo collections and adding richness to the book while teaming to preserve King County heritage.

The Charles Maslow slide collection arrived this quarter. It is made up of nearly 30,000 slides from his railfan trips in the Pacific Northwest, around the United States, and in Europe.

Bob Hundman, who published *Mainline Modeler* magazine for 27 years, has continued to support the Archive by donating 18 boxes of railroad photos, books, diagrams and drawings from his library.

The George Simonson collection arrived at PNRA in August with photos, maps and documents from the GN, Milwaukee, NP and logging railroads in the Pacific Northwest. The collection was repacked into banker boxes before the move to



The saw mill on BEMRRC's modular layout will be on display on the Archive's main floor at the **2017 Holiday Open House** Nov. 24-26, 2017, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

the Archive.

Volunteer Patricia Brady is preparing many of the dispatcher train sheets in the collections at PNRA for posting on the appropriate Rail Heritage Organization web sites. This work is a follow-on to the 2012 grant from the *Wash. Dept. of Archaeology & Historic Preservation* to preserve these valuable transportation history documents and make them available free via the Internet to researchers, authors, modelers and the general public. All these files are on the PNRA-managed servers near Seattle.

After the NPRHA convention in Duluth MN, the truck returning the Store inventory to Burien also transferred 15 boxes of GN and SP&S west-end-related records from the GNRHS office at *Jackson Street Roundhouse* in St Paul MN to PNRA.

Help Preserve Collections

An important part of PNRA's mission is to gather the many collections of railroad documents, maps and photos from the Pacific Northwest region into a facility where they can be preserved and made available to the general public over the internet. We know many collections need a new home now and in the future. However, many of the owners or their families don't know of PNRA and our preservation mission. It is critical that we talk with these people before the collections are discarded. **If you know of such a collection, please contact us.**

Community Outreach

Mike Bergman presented the history of the Highland Park & Lake Burien Railroad at the *Tacoma Chapter of NRHS's* annual Northwest Railroad History Forum held on Sept. 9, 2017, in Tacoma. Mike is also advising the *Highline Heritage Museum* on the aspects of their proposed permanent exhibit on the HP&LBR.

The Fall Milwaukee Road Meet was held at PNRA on Sept. 16, 2017, with 23 in attendance.

Providence Archives in Seattle donated 19 archival boxes to PNRA in September.

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Photos for PNRA's collection supported presentations at Great Northern Day in Skykomish in September.

Events on the PNRA calendar:

- Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society, Northwest Chapter meeting, Oct. 16, 2017, at PNRA.
- PNRA booth at the Boeing Swap Meet, Nov. 11, 2017, at Kent WA Commons.
- PNRA & BEMRRC Holiday Open House, Nov. 24-26, 2017.
- Spring Milwaukee Road Meet, Mar. 3, 2018, at PNRA
- First GN/SP&S Meet, Mar. 17, 2018, at PNRA.
- SP&SRHS convention, Sept. 9-11, 2018, in Centralia WA.
- PNRA convention week Open House, Sept. 10-14, 2018, at PNRA.
- NPRHA convention, Sept. 11-15, 2017, in Centralia-Chehalis WA.
- GNRHS convention, Sept. 15-19, 2018, in Bellingham WA.

PNRA Headlight Society

We are pleased that three PNRA members have indicated that they have included a planned gift to PNRA in their will, with others expressing interest in making a planned gift. The PNRA Headlight Society was formed to honor individuals who make such a commitment to PNRA in a will, regardless of the gift's size. These planned gifts will fund the financial foundation of the Archive and ensure PNRA's preservation mission continues into the future.



*The Concrete Local passes over a falls at Crater Lake on BEMRRC's permanent layout at PNRA. The layout will be a major feature of the **2017 Holiday Open House** on Nov. 24-26 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.*

Facilities

In mid-July, the drywall contractor completed hanging the drywall on the Upper Floor of the Archive. PNRA crews then painted the walls and ceiling, the light fixtures were rehung and the first set of fixed shelving was secured to the east wall. By the end of September additional map storage, shelving, and

storage racks for Boeing's modules were completed. This project was partially funded by \$5,000 from *4Culture*, the King County administrator of hotel/motel tax revenues.

The PNRA Board elected to increase the funds raised by the refinancing of PNRA's debt to pay for installation of a box lift system between the lower and main floors, and for climate control systems throughout the Archive building. The Board considers the box lift as an important safety improvement to keep our volunteers from carrying heavy boxes between the floors. We have received bids from local box lift installers, and our architect is modifying our facility plan to move the Box lift to the center of the building to the space occupied by the utility closet under the upper stairs.

Administration

The *SP&SRHS* received their 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS in August.

The *Tacoma Chapter of NRHS* donated portions of their collection to PNRA last quarter. They plan to use the PNRA facility for some of their membership meetings and future Railroad History Forums.

PNRA purchased three refurbished Dell computers with high processing power to drive our negative and slide scanners.

During the first three quarters of 2017, volunteers worked a total of 12,421 hours at the Archive. This is a 6.5% increase over the work-hours accumulated over the same period in 2016.

PNRA's Heritage Capital Project grant application to the *Washington State Historical Society* which requested \$51,821 to increase the energy efficiency and security of our Archive building was approved for full funding by both houses of the *Washington State Legislature*. However, the funding has been held up along with the rest of the \$4.0 billion State Capital Budget pending resolution of other matters in Olympia. We hope to receive the funding in 2018.

Become a Friend of PNRA

Friends of PNRA (our members) support the Archive and our mission of preserving the history of our region's railroads and making it available on our internet web sites. Our members live throughout the United States, as-well-as in the Puget Sound area. There are two ways they became a member and you too can become a *Friend of PNRA*:

- **Joining a work crew** at one of regularly scheduled weekly sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays evenings or Saturdays. Email us to get started working on a collection that interests you at a time that works for you.
- **Contributing funds** each year to help cover PNRA's operating costs. Join the hundreds of contributors that regularly support PNRA. Donate at www.PNRArchive.org, call or email us for more details on becoming a *Friend of PNRA*!!

Gary Tarbox,
PNRA Executive Director
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