



www.PSGRS.org

March Issue, 2017

# Puget Sound Garden Railroading

Official Newsletter of the Puget Sound Garden Railway Society



Mike Phillips coordinated the 2017 Clinics.  
Photo by Mark Jennings.

## The Wheels Keep Turning

By Norm Baullinger, President.

This past month we had two successful activities: we had our electric modules at the Monroe Train Show and had a very good clinic with about 40 people attending. Thanks to Mike Phillips for getting the clinic speakers and Sharon and Chuck Carlson for arranging the facilities. Sharon and Beverly Melrose did a great job in organizing the food and keeping the coffee hot and available. It's not too late to starting thinking about presenting a clinic next year. It is always a chore to find sufficient speakers, so how about you doing one? Please let Mike know if you are willing to present a clinic.

Next up is our March annual business meeting at the Eagles in Puyallup. This year it is on the *fourth* Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, and not the usual third Saturday of the month. It is *not* a potluck meeting. Sandwiches and soup (and beer) can be purchased at very reasonable prices. Lunch at noon, meeting at 1 PM. The Eagles are willing to donate the room as long as we purchase lunch. Please support them by purchasing your lunch so we can keep getting the room.

This is the meeting where we elect officers for the coming year. As of this time, I have not received any nominations for any of the offices. All existing officers have agreed to be nominated for their current positions so without any additional nominations, this may be a "railroaded" election.

New business items to discuss are the ratification of my proposal to reimburse summer meeting hosts \$50 for expenses, a proposal by Bill Thurston to not snail mail newsletters to new members, confirm our support for Rose City's 2019 convention by having open layouts, and a discussion regarding our relationship with the proposed Mt. Rainier Railroad.

After the main business meeting, we will have a presentation by Bill Zingheim on the 7 1/2" railroad being planned for Mineral (Mt. Rainier Railroad). Some of our members have helped pull up 6,000 ft of track from Tom Murray's existing railroad near Tacoma (*see photos on pages 9-10.*) That track will be used for the new railroad. Continued help is still needed to build track, turnouts, lay new track, etc. Along those lines, Bill has requested that we should decide if we want to have a more formal relationship with the Mt. Rainier Railroad in developing/running the 7 1/2" railroad. The club that will be formed for the new railroad will tentatively be named Rainier Live Steamers (RLS). No expenses building this railroad will be borne by RLS members. Ten 7 1/2" gauge locomotives plus rolling stock have already been donated. After the presentation, as part of new business, we can have a discussion regarding a continuing relationship.

With the presentation and possible discussion, we won't have a show and tell session this year. However, if you want to bring items to sell, trade or give away, please do so.

The planned agenda is on page 9. If anyone has any additional subjects they want to add to the agenda, please let

*Continued on next page.*

### Inside This Issue

- The President's Annual Report on page 2.
- This and That on page 2.
- Report on the clinics on pages 3-5.
- Report on the Great Hobby Show in January on pages 6-8.
- Agenda and directions to the March 24 business meeting on pages 9 and 10.
- "SIGs" and "Schedules and Stops" on page 11.

*Continued from previous page.*

me know so I can update it prior to the meeting. And if anyone has a special project or item they would like the club to spend over \$500 on, it has to be written up and e-mailed out to all members several weeks prior to the meeting. Otherwise, it cannot be considered.

I'm looking forward to having a good meeting and hope to see you there. As I write this, I'm on the Empire Builder heading to Chicago. I was hoping to have winter weather as I like to do a cross-country train trip in the winter, but it looks like Chicago weather will almost be spring like.

Well, keep those wheels turning.

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## **Puget Sound Garden Railroad Society Presidents Annual Report March 24, 2017**

*By Norm Baullinger, President*

- Last year saw a continuation of our membership level at approximately 135 family memberships. Several new members have already joined this year.
- We made new badges for all members, thanks to Rae & Mary Mitchell.
- We have an informal relationship with a gentleman by the name of Bill Zinghiem, who is leading an effort to build a 7 1/2" gauge railroad at Mineral, WA. Several members have been helping remove track from an existing railroad for use there and have pulled up over 5,000 ft.
- The steamers designed and had built a new portable, dual track, module for running live steam. John Bigelow and Peter Comley coordinated that effort.
- Electric modules improvements were made. Landscaping was upgraded on some of the modules; the poles fencing off the layout from the public were repainted, new stands made, and new plastic chain was purchased, thanks to Alan and Bev Melrose and Chuck and Sharon Carlson; new power packs were purchased from Bridgewater and installed.
- Over a dozen members attended the 2016 National Garden Railroad Conference in Santa Clara.
- We donated \$500 to the Northern Cascade Railroad in Skykomish to replace landscaping. You can ride this 7 1/2" railroad for free on weekends during the summer. Work is continuing to expand it.
- We are now posting newsletters from other west coast clubs on our web site, in the members only section. We share our newsletter with those same clubs.
- We agreed to help the Portland Club, Rose City Garden Railroad Society, in arranging open layouts

here in support of their 2019 National Garden Railroad Conference, Brent Stuvland is our coordinator.

- We had a minor change in our newsletter staff. Bill Thurston has assumed the job of Editor, as well as arranging the newsletter for publication, and Beth MacLaren who was the editor, has agreed to stay on and help edit and proof read.
- Our club reserves decreased by just under \$4,000 mainly due to paying for the steamer module, landscaping grant to the Great Northern Cascade Railroad, and new member badges. We still ended the year with a reserve balance of nearly \$24,000.

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## **This and That**

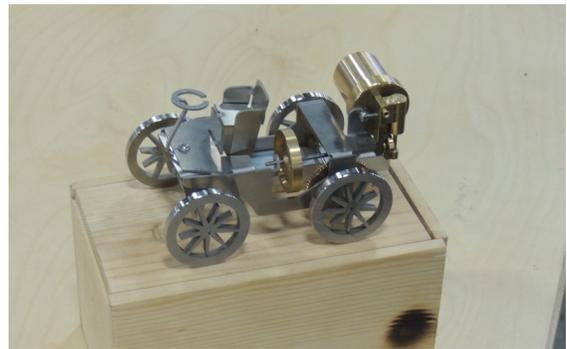
*Edited by Bill Thurston*

Jim Montgomery and Kurt Sykes report that the wind-ups SIG running sessions have moved from Kurt's place to Jim's. There are only about 6 or 8 members that are into the clockwork trains, so it is just a small group. All (so far) are live steamers.

They find that clockwork (indoors) is a fun replacement for live steam in the winter months and foul weather. In the summer and good weather, the winders are great fun on the garden railway.

You will usually see some clockwork running at the regular steam ups. It is mostly 0 gauge but there is some Gauge 1 out there. Most all the clock work trains are antiques, so there are also the collectors interests involved. Anybody interested in this far corner of the hobby is most welcome.

Chris Johnson is one of those live steamers that attends the clockwork sessions. At the Great Hobby Show (*see article on page 6*) he showed that his interest in live steam is not limited to locomotives. Below is a photo I took of the live steam car that he brought to the show. As I recall the car is only about 4 inches long.



On a completely separate topic: You are invited to attend the South Sound Breakfast club meeting March 14 at the Harvester Restaurant in Gig Harbor and run trains afterward at my place, weather permitting (*temperature above 45 and no steady rain predicted*). I will send out an email the day before confirming or cancelling the train running.

## Report on the 2017 Clinics

*Article and photos by Mark Jennings*

A very special thanks to Chuck Carlson for once again arranging to have the PSGRS annual clinics at the Messiah Lutheran Church. It certainly provides the best venue for our clinics of the several we have had in the past. But I need to step back a bit and sincerely thank the leadership of Messiah Lutheran for giving Chuck the go-ahead so that he could give us the go-ahead.

Laurels to Sharon Carlson and Bev Melrose for superior kitchen management and food presentation. Upon arrival I found the coffee hot and food donations already being laid out in an orderly and attractive manner. Yes, I notice things like that.

Proceeding to the auditorium, I found it abuzz with activity. It was good to see old and friendly faces that I haven't seen since last year. Clinics Coordinator, Mike Phillips was busy with set up for the presentations to come. The For Sale table was very active. There was a Pennsy electric loco for sale in mint condition. Rae Mitchell sold a brass double crossover that was a piece of trackwork art, that Mike Phillips bought. Rae was also selling a 2-8-8-2, two Moguls and a 2 truck Shay. Also notable was a large wooden Howe through truss bridge. Other tables held curious looking items that we would learn about after lunch. So we went to lunch.

President Norm opened the clinics with words of welcome. The new members who attended were Tony Griffin and Jack Kowitt. Both gave a brief rundown on themselves and their interest in G scale modeling. Norm spoke of recently buying online a 3 truck Shay for only about \$287. They list for about \$1399 on the Bachman online store web page. He said six more were available from the same source at the same price. Contact Norm if a Shay is on your want list. Terry Lattin informed us of an encounter with someone who had a lot of LGB stuff for sale. Terry has the info so contact him if you are interested. Then Ron Ball showed us and demonstrated some small dome shaped LED lights that can be remotely controlled. They are battery powered, but being LEDs should last a long time. They are ideal for lighting buildings and with some modifications could be used to light pax cars. (Stringing and soldering tiny wires has always been a pain for me). They are available at Costco for only \$19.00, but are popular and may be hard to find.

Mark Howe began the presentations by discussing sound modules. He showed two sound boards/modules from ADAfruit, each capable of holding 16 megabytes of various sounds which can be triggered/selected as desired on 11 triggers. He then demonstrated a siren sound followed by "fire in the hold" followed by an explosion. He said the two sources of sounds that must be used are OGG and WAV. The sounds can be altered and converted from two free programs on the internet. The boards and sounds he demonstrated were off train, except for a cattle car. The sound modules are good for general sounds around a railroad.

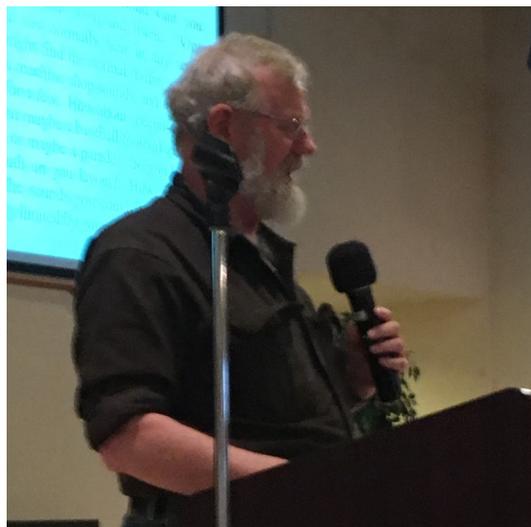
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*Norm Baullinger and Alan Melrose inspect the For Sale table.*



*Lunch is served.*



*Mark Howe on using sound boards to create sounds for a layout.*

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Norm Baullinger followed with descriptions and photographs of various common methods of laying and ballasting track. The simplest was merely filling in a ditch with 3/8" minus gravel, placing a hard roadbed free floating on the gravel, and then the track floating on the hard roadbed held on with clips. Other methods included laying track on a board or other firm surface or placing stakes in the ground at intervals and placing a hard surface on top of the stakes. Lastly, he spoke on raised platform construction. His presentation was of particular interest to me since I am contemplating taking down my above ground layout and returning to earth.

Brent Stuvland then gave a presentation on bridge building. He showed how to use a gardening product – Emerald Edging – to construct a deck girder bridge. He followed that by showing his technique for building wooden bents to be used on a trestle and making them so that each is even and level with the adjoining bents. Brent has made several long and beautiful trestles for his layout.

New member Mark Sauerwald, who is the owner of Bridgewater recently relocated to Tacoma, gave a tutorial on basic electricity as it applies to model trains. His presentation was focused on track powered layouts, but the need for good wiring and clean contacts applies equally to battery powered layouts. He also explained how wireless control systems such as Aristocraft Train Engineer and DCC systems function and allow for controlling multiple trains with one controller.

Bill Thurston likes to have a lot of water running through his layout at various levels and had a need to connect a stream to a water wheel. So his short presentation was on building a wooden flume with a gate to control rate of flow which connected the aforementioned so that the water wheel turned and supplied power to the adjoining grist mill. Photographic evidence shows that it is working quite well.

Next came Alex Osenbach. He has two identical Santa Fe GP-38 locos except for engine numbers and, as I understand it, wanted to be able to run them in tandem without one loco pushing or pulling the other. This required purchasing two "drop in" loco controller circuit boards and two sound boards. Alex' presentation about installing the new controller boards was quite detailed with many good photos. It seems, however, that the term "drop in" is to be very liberally interpreted. It was not exactly plug and play. Making the conversion began with removing the underslung fuel tank and front truck plus many other parts either to gain access to the control boards or to protect parts from the cutting and filing required to accommodate the new controller boards. Despite a two week delay due to a manufacturing problem for the first GP-38, the second was completed in three hours. As for me, if I have to have one of my locos repaired or upgraded, I will drop in on Rae Mitchell or Dave Goodson.

Chuck Carlson followed with a presentation on building a

through truss bridge using aluminum stock available at Lowes. (I presume Home Depot or other good hardware stores can also supply). He showed the pieces he has used for the deck, sides and top and techniques he used for cutting pieces using a chop saw and drilling to accommodate stainless screws, bolts and nuts.

At this point I had to depart for home and I apologize for not including in this article any presentations or comments that I missed. I am sure all who attended join me in thanks to Mike for a very well organized and very enjoyable 2017 Clinics. Remember, all presentations will be available on our club website in the members' only section.



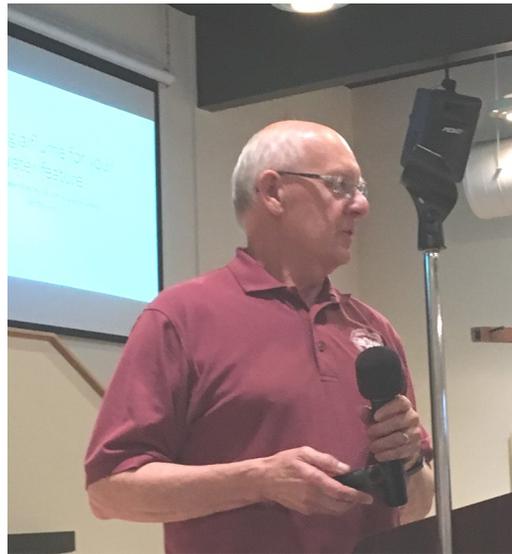
*Brent Stuvland speaks of bridges and bents.*



*Brent's bridge and bent.*



Steam locos that Rae Mitchell had for sale.



Bill Thurston on building a water flume.



Bill Thurston's flume to carry water to the water wheel.



Mark Sauerwald speaks on electric control of trains.



The LED lights Ron Ball brought for Show & Tell.

## World's Greatest Hobby on Tour, 2017

By Beth MacLaren

Don and I headed to Puyallup on Friday morning, January 13<sup>th</sup>, for setup of the electric modules to be ready for the Saturday and Sunday show. I counted about twenty members there for setup, including our newest members (see below). Also there was Ron Lund, likely our most senior member, in his mid-90's, and a proud member of the hobby. He brought several cars he has scratch built, plus a couple of locomotives, which he brought in on Friday while parking was close and he didn't have so far to cart them. Several others did likewise.

The World's Greatest Hobby on Tour was our second show in Puyallup this year, and a considerably larger show than the normal Puyallup show is. This one was heavily advertised and featured many national manufacturers. One of the manufacturers' reps commented to me on Saturday that this show is his favorite, as "Randy is always so well organized." Randy turns out to be the man in charge, and he travels with the show from place to place. A vendor remarked that he had hopes that the show would produce about three times the sales revenue of the earlier show. Sorry I don't have figures to confirm or deny whether or not his hopes were met, but it was a heavily attended show, with a lot of visitor interest generated. Brent Stuvland says we gave away a lot of booklets (which we stuff with membership applications for good measure). We also had three new members sign up within weeks of the show: Bill Bidwell and Tony and Kate Griffin. Two others, Mike Teskey, and Jack Kowitt signed up in recent months and attended this show as members who came to help with setup and running trains. This is an excellent venue for renewing our ranks! (And it didn't hurt our feelings to accept the \$150 participation gratuity.)

President Norm Baullinger says we also had a visitor to the layout from the Santa Clarita, California club, Grant Sweer, their President. He was in town on business, which gave him an excellent opportunity to see our layout and attend the show.

Sorry to say that as a distaff member, I'm not much for being able to tell you who was running which sort of equipment, but running appeared to be smooth for the most part. There was a bit of hubbub in the beginning, over figuring out how to make the controllers operate correctly, or the trains travel in the expected direction. (Ask Brent Stuvland about it. He seemed to be in the thick of figuring out what was going on and how to either cure or otherwise deal with it.)

Don pointed out to me that one of our younger and newer members, Nathan Smith, had a couple of interesting loads in his consist: a flat car carrying a locomotive, and a low-sided gondola that carried a small desert scene with sand and perhaps some cactus to boot.

If you are among the younger, still-working-and-have-a-hard-time-breaking-free-on-the-weekend set, give a kind

word to the stalwart retirees that can and do make it for a weekday setup schedule, and many of whom also manage to be there for take-down. Meanwhile, enjoy the photos of the weekend. I know John Morrison got several good shots, and Bill Thurston had his camera busy as well.

By the time you read this report we will have already had the Clinics. I hope you were able to attend. See you next at the Annual Business Meeting and over the course of our summer open houses, which are fun to look forward to from the midst of our current rain, icy rain, or snow, depending on where you live.



*Long time member Ron Lund came to the show with some locos including the Uintah Railway mallet in the middle pulling several scratch built cars.*

Photo by Bill Thurston.



*A close up of Ron Lund's mallet.*

Photo by John Morrison.

## The Clown Circus Railroad

By Bill Thurston

Bob Videmsek extends his thanks to club members Chuck and Sharon Carlson, myself, and friend Mike Morgan, for helping him set up his Clown Circus Railroad layout at the Hobby Show last January in Puyallup. His layout complimented the club's electric module display in demonstrating the fun of G scale railroading. His layout was enjoyed by all who stopped by.

On an unfortunate note, Bob reports that someone walked off with a box of his layout accessories sometime during the show.



*A young railroad fan looks over the mogul loco Chuck Carlson won at the Christmas auction. After cleaning up the brass and other parts it looks better than new.*



*Graffiti artists have done their number on the mixed freight consist that Alex Osenbach was running.*



*The Clown Circus Railroad being enjoyed by many at the Hobby Show. Bob, near the far right end of the table in a white shirt, is attending to some details.*



*Ken Nesland and Fred Konkell talking it up.*



*Brent Stuvland waits patiently for the track ahead to clear so he can run his Great Northern mixed freight train.*

Photos on this page by Bill Thurston.



*Nathan Smith's shay pushing a desert themed load and an 19th century American loco loaded on a flat bed.*  
 Photo by Bill Thurston.



*Patty Johnson, Beth MacLaren, and Bev Melrose keeping busy at the show.*  
 Photo by Bill Thurston.



*Chis Johnson displayed a fine looking Milwaukee Road locomotive.*  
 Photo by Bill Thurston.



*Tom Zimmer ran his AT&SF passenger train. Is that Terry Lattin in the background?*  
 Photo by John Morrison.



*Tom Zimmer and Chris Johnson direct traffic as Ron Lund brings in his train.*  
 Photo by Bill Thurston.

# PSGRS Annual Membership Meeting Meeting Agenda – March 24, 2017– Puyallup Eagles

Noon (or earlier) – Purchase lunch downstairs, meeting will be upstairs.

1 PM

Welcome – Norm Baullinger

President’s Report – Norm Baullinger

Vice-President Report – Jerry Madsen

Electric Modules – Jerry Madsen

Steamers – John Bigelow

Membership – Dave White for Brent Stuvland

Newsletter –Bill Thurston

Treasure’s Report – Ed Mattison

2016 Income/Expenditures

2017 Proposed budget

Acceptance of 2017 Budget

Election of Officers – Nominations/Vote

Old Business - none

New Business

-Subsidy for summer meeting hosts

– Norm Baullinger.

-E-mail newsletters – Bill Thurston

-Support Portland Club for 2019 NGRC

– Dave White for Brent Stuvland

-Coordinator for Mt. Rainier Railroad 7 1/2”

Activity – Norm Baullinger

-Any other?

Comments – Any Member

Mt. Rainier Railroad presentation – Bill Zingheim

Any further discussion

Close



*Terry Lattin and Pete Comley take a break at the Oct 2016 work party salvaging track donated by Tom Murray for use at the Mt Rainier Railroad.  
Photo by Alex Osenbach.*



*Club members taking up a turn-out.  
Photo by Alex Osenbach.*

# Directions to Business Meeting

## From Seattle or Eastside:

Take Highway 167 south past Auburn and into Puyallup  
 Turn left onto Meridian Street heading south over bridge  
 Turn right onto River Road (Highway 167 to Tacoma)  
 Continue to the west to the second traffic light  
 Turn left onto 4. St NW  
 Follow 4. St NW to the south across the RR tracks (Becomes  
 5. St SW)  
 Look for the Puyallup Eagles Building on the right

## From the South:

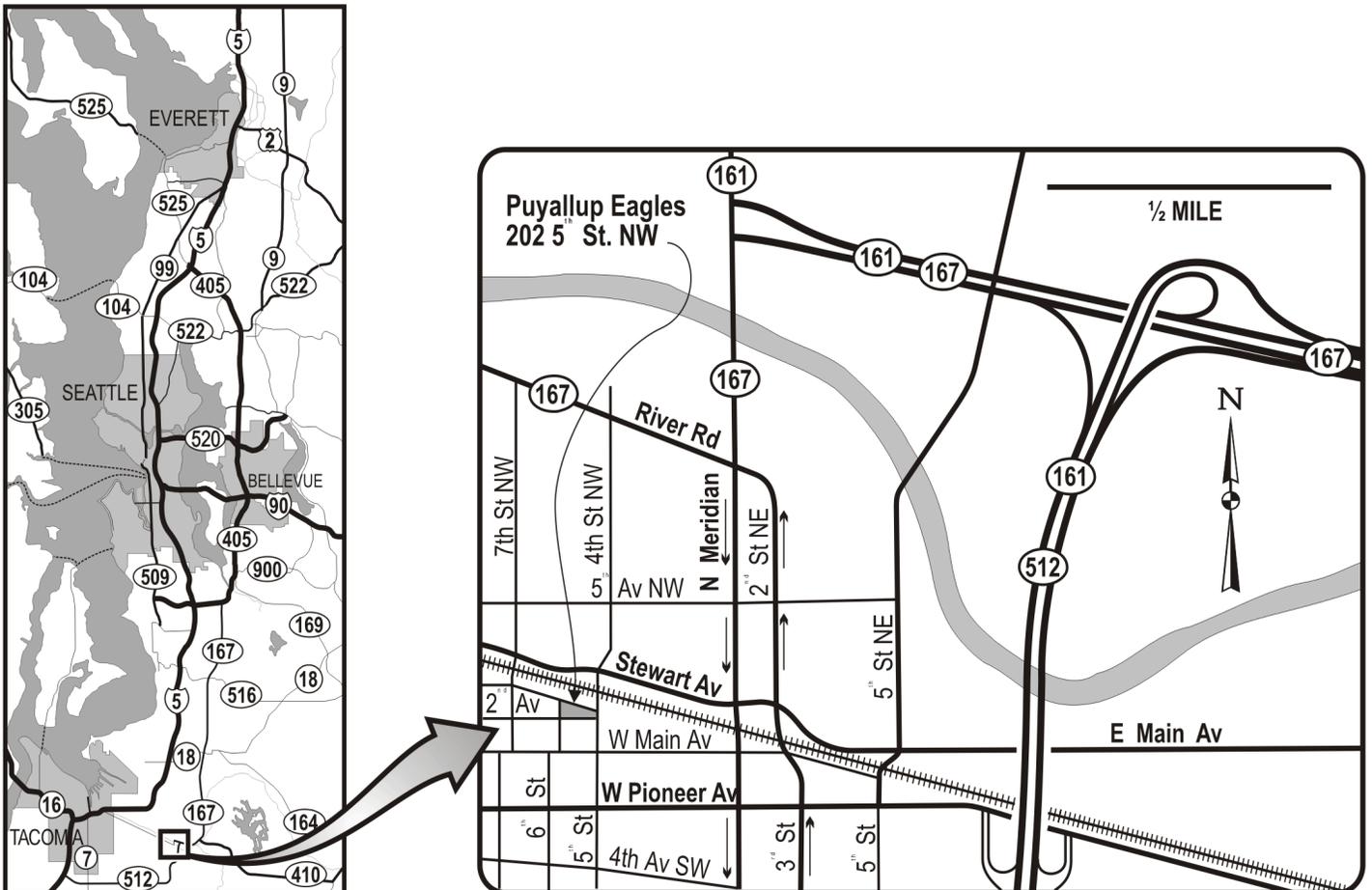
Take Highway 512 toward the east and Puyallup  
 Take exit to Pioneer Ave  
 Turn left onto Pioneer Ave and travel west  
 Turn right at 5. St NW  
 Look for the Puyallup Eagles Building on the left

## From Tacoma:

Take Highway 167 heading east toward Puyallup  
 Turn right on 4. St NW  
 Follow 4. St NW to the south across the RR tracks (Becomes  
 5. St SW)  
 Look for the Puyallup Eagles Building on the right



*A box car load of salvaged rails.*  
 Photo by Alex Osenbach.



# Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Regularly Scheduled Events

## Big Liars Club

Meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:30 AM at Denny's Restaurant on 148th Ave. NE (in the Overlake area – next to Fred Myers and across from Sears) for breakfast and friendship.

## Little Liars Club

Meets at 9:30 AM the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of each month at Ikea, 600 SW 41st St, Renton for breakfast and friendship.

## West Sound Liars Club

Meets at 9:30 the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Family Pancake House, 3900 Kitsap Way, Bremerton for breakfast and friendship.

## Tall Tales Club

Meets at 9:00 AM on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Denny's in Monroe located at 18824 US Rt 2, for breakfast and friendship.

## South Sound Liars Club

Meets for breakfast different times, places, and dates based on who calls for a meeting. Sometimes includes running trains after breakfast. Notices typically sent to all club members who have email addresses. Contact Chuck Carlson at 253-927-7062 for more information.

## Wind Up Train SIG

Jim Montgomery is hosting a monthly wind up, or clockwork, train meet at his house on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 PM until dark. Bring your vintage windups and have fun! Call Jim at 206-783-0829 for more information.

## Live Steam SIG

The Live Steamers meet on the 2nd Saturday of every month at Chris Johnson's. We also meet at a member's home as shown in "Schedules and Stops" below. Contact John Bigelow (206-284-5038) or Peter Comley (253-862-6748) for further information.

## Modules SIG

Constructs and displays the club modular layout at various shows throughout the region. No set schedule, but shows are publicized well in advance. Contact Jerry Madsen (253 307 9055) to join.

## Boating SIG

For PSGRS members who are also interested in model boats. Meets the 1st Sunday after the 1st Thursday of each month at the Bellevue park just south of Bellevue Square mall. Call Dave White at (425-269-9277) for further information.

## Operations SIG—Goodson

First Friday afternoon and evening of each month from 2:00 PM until 9:00 PM at Dave Goodson's home. Scheduling and running trains as would be done on a real railroad. Please call Dave (425 823 3507) for an invitation.

## Schedules and Stops

(SIG regularly scheduled meetings and contact information is above)

Date	Time	Event	Place	Comments
March 14	9 AM	South Sound Breakfast	Harvester Restaurant, 5601 Soundview Dr, Gig Harbor	Run trains afterward at Thurston's -weather dependent.
March 25	Noon to 4PM	Club business meeting	Puyallup Eagles Club	Note: 4th Saturday rather than the usual 3rd.
March 25		Steam-up	Sykes', Federal Way	
April 22	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Carlson's, Federal Way	Note: 4th Saturday rather than the usual 3rd.
May 20	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Phillips', Issaquah	
June 17	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Shadduck's, Lynnwood	
July 15	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Osenbach's, Mill Creek	
August 9-12		Skagit County Fair	Mt Vernon	
August 19	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Drake's, Ferndale	
Sept 16	Noon to 4PM	Club Meeting	Madsen's, Kent	
Oct 7 - 8		Lynden train show	Lynden	
Dec 13		Christmas Party	Lynnwood	Location TBD

*Editor's note: A report on the club's participation in the Monroe train show held February 25-26 will be published in the next (April) edition of the newsletter.*



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## Puget Sound Garden Railway Society

### Officers and Staff

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*Vice President:*.....Jerry Madsen  
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*Treasurer:*.....Ed Mattison  
 crisolite@aol.com .....253 472 6338

*Membership:*.....Brent Stuvland  
 b.j.stuvland@frontier.com.....360.668 9366

*Dues are \$36.00 per year payable each January first. New members prorated. Send dues to Brent Stuvland at POB 357, Bothell, WA 98041. Send changes in membership information to Brent by e-mail or to the above address.*

*Secretary:*.....Elizabeth Alkire  
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*Meetings Scheduler:*.....Mark Jennings  
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*Website Honcho:*.....Paul Clark  
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*Keeper of the web newsletter archives:*.....Paul Clark  
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*The club website is [www.PSGRS.org](http://www.PSGRS.org).*

*Keeper of the e-mail list:*.....Tom Briggs  
 tabtabtab@msn.com

*Purveyor of club T-shirts,  
 Sweatshirts, etc.:*.....Dwight Malott  
 djm98292@yahoo.com.....360 652 2311  
*Items are generally on display and for sale at club meetings.*

### Newsletter Staff

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