

The

April
2006



Trainmaster

The Official Publication of the
Pacific Northwest Chapter,
National Railway Historical Society
Portland, Oregon



Pacific Northwest Chapter Timetable #525

Membership Meetings: April 21, May 19, 7:30 PM,
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5415 SE Powell Blvd.

Programs at Upcoming Meetings:

- April 21 – Jerry Tanquist from The Dalles, OR will present Railroads in the Columbia Gorge
- May 19 – Video “I love Big Trains” a very good video geared to children but also provides a lot of good information about railroads and chapter members will probably enjoy it.
- June 16 – Ed Immel will once again present a very good program.
- Future Date: Steve Amen, Director of Oregon Field Guide at Oregon Public Broadcasting

Board of Directors Meetings: April 13, May 11, Room 208, Union Station, 7:30 PM

Lending Library: April 22 & 29, May 20 & 27, 1:30 to 4 pm, check-out subject to **loan agreement**.

Notable Non-Chapter Events:

Saturday, May 6, Dan Rehwalt will be speaking about his days working in the Oakridge roundhouse 1947-1952 and Larry Castle is speaking about the building of the Natron Cutoff... <http://www.espeeinoregon.com/>

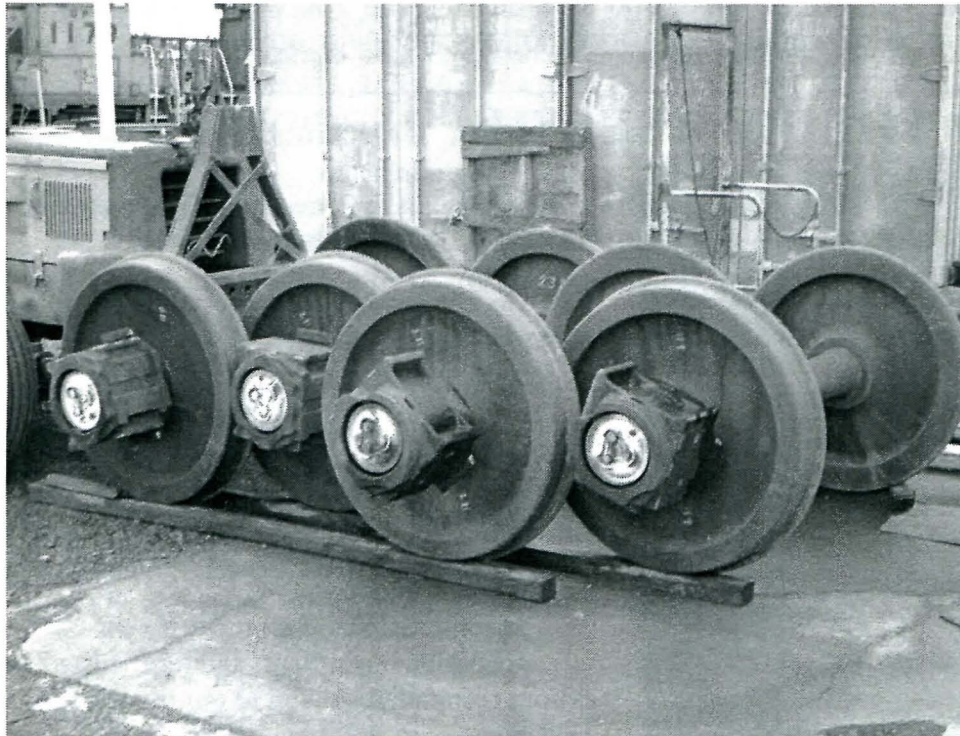
May 19 - 21, GorgeRail 2006, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles. More info: www.gorgerail.com

June 10th - SP4449 joins the *15th Annual Cruisin'* in Historic old town Sherwood

July 20 - 22, SP&S Historical Society Convention, Eugene more info: www.spshs.org

Sept 16, West Side Train Show & Swapmeet, 10 AM - 4 PM, Forest Grove National Guard Armory.

REPLACEMENT MT. HOOD WHEELSETS



This set of four wheelsets obtained for the Chapter by Standard Rail Services (Bruce Moore) were delivered to the Brooklyn Roundhouse on February 19th and are ready for installation on the SP&S Mt. Hood #600 lounge/sleeper. The Chapter appreciates the use of a garden track at the Brooklyn Roundhouse to do this work. The Chapter also appreciates Bruce's work in finding these fine replacements in a nation wide search. Passenger wheelsets are not easy to locate in a very tight market.

Arlen L. Sheldrake photo, 3.16.2006

Locomotive SP&S 700 Added to the National Register of Historic Places CONGRATULATIONS PRPA !



Placed on the National Register of Historic Places.
January 25, 2006

On January 25, 2006, the United States Department of The Interior added the locomotive and tender *SP&S 700* to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Established in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

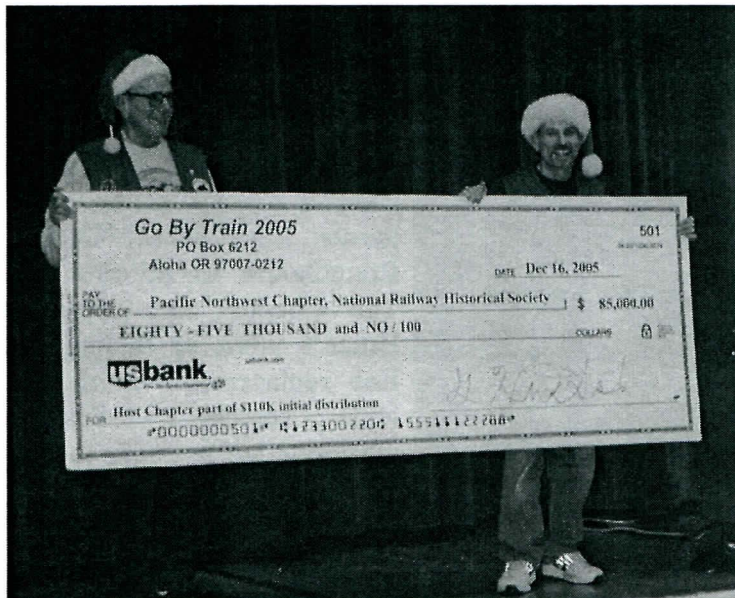
The *SP&S 700* is a robust survivor of a time when railroads dominated inter-state transportation, and steam locomotives dominated rail power. It typifies large steam locomotives as they were at the end of the era of steam-powered mainline railroading. Its appearance and function are virtually unchanged since its manufacture. Its public appearances today, with all the speed, size, noise, heat, smoke and steam of old, are dramatic presentations of the 'way things were' in the mid-20th Century.

The *SP&S 700* was listed because it is a working example of the peak of proven steam and rail technology at it was at the end of "The Age of Steam." The *700*, unmodified during its service from 1938 to 1956, and is restored, maintained, and operated as it was originally. It represents the state of the art of practical design, manufacture, and operation when "steam was king" on the Nation's rails. The *700* is also recognized for its part in linking the Portland area to the rest of the Nation.

The *700*, is a 4-8-4 "Northern" built by Baldwin in 1938 and steamed in mainline service until 1956. Owned by the City of Portland, she was restored after thirty years in the weather in Oaks Park by the volunteers of the Pacific Railroad Preservation Association (PRPA). The PRPA today maintains and operates this grand old lady of the rails.

Over 110 feet long and almost 17 feet tall, the *700* pulled passenger trains at over 60 mph between Portland and Spokane. Fueled, watered, and steamed up, the *700* weighs 440 tons. It is the third largest and second most powerful steam locomotive operating anywhere in the world today.

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP – December 16, 2005



Mark Whitson photo Left,
Arlen Sheldrake Convention Chair; right, Ron
McCoy Chapter President

Go By Train 2005 was held in Portland, Oregon July 5-9, 2005. This is our first public report on the outcome of the convention.

This convention would not have been possible without the help of a great many people and organizations. First, thanks to the 96 volunteers and the 10 individuals who served as Chairpersons or in other key management functions.

Second, thanks to all the different organizations, businesses, and railroads, all of whom responded so well to our request for assistance with the various Convention

activities. Thanks also to the National Convention Committee. Carl Jensen and his team were invaluable in their assistance.

Third, thanks to all the members and guests who were willing to make the trip to Portland from nearly every state and many foreign countries. We enjoyed having them, and hope they all had as much fun as we did.

The following are PRELIMINARY and subject to correction, and have not been audited:

Pre-registrations: 1220, of which 1059 paid.

Orders: 650, representing 800 attendees.

Gross Income: \$684,003.74, including \$20,223.88 in receivables.

Gross Expenses: \$535,169.98, including \$11,136.04 in liabilities.

Balance: Positive, \$148,833.76.

In accordance with NRHS Convention Policy, a substantial distribution of \$110,000.00 is being made, the NRHS portion of which (50% of the first \$10,000 and 20% of any additional) is \$25,000.00, and the Chapter portion is \$85,000.00.

We believe that the Chapter's 50th anniversary was celebrated with a very successful *Go By Train 2005* NRHS convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlen Sheldrake, Convention Chair & George Hickok, Convention Treasurer

RARE MILEAGE TRIPS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Southern Appalachia Railway Museum is sponsoring some rare mileage trips in the Pacific Northwest on June 6, 7, 8, & 9. More details are available at: www.southernappalachia.railway.museum. Ticket orders must be received before May 26th. Each trip is sold separately; order forms are available from the Web site.

BANKS, OREGON, June 6th. The charter train will operate over the entire length of the Port of Tillamook Bay Railroad from Banks to Tillamook. This one-way train trip will depart Banks at 8:30 am and includes afternoon bus return. Tickets are \$139 with an optional lunch available for \$11. Tickets available with SASE from SARM POTB 2006, PO Box 620, Avon IL 61415.

CHEHALIS, WASHINGTON, June 7th. The steam-powered charter train will operate over the entire length of the Chehalis-Centralia Railroad and feature several photo runbys. The train trip will depart Chehalis 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$20. Tickets available with SASE from SARM Chehalis 2006, PO Box 620, Avon IL 61415.

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, June 8th. Ride behind steam over the former Tacoma Eastern between Morton and Tacoma. The Charter train will operate over the route using steam from the Mount Rainier Scenic. This will be the first operation of such a trip in many years. This one-way train trip will start with a bus ride from Tacoma to Morton and then train return. Departure from Freighthouse Square at 8:30 am. Tickets are \$165 which includes train, bus and lunch. Tickets available with SASE from SARM Tacoma 2006, PO Box 620, Avon IL 61415.

TACOMA, WASHINGTON, June 9th. Same as above except trip begins with the train from Tacoma to Morton with a bus return.

(SASE = large stamped self-addressed envelope)

Rail Advisory Committee Formed

A new committee has been created to advise the Oregon Department of Transportation on freight and passenger rail issues.

The Rail Advisory Committee's first assignment will be to review rail-related *ConnectOregon* project applications and recommend projects to the Oregon Transportation Commission for funding. After that, the committee will focus on policies and actions that affect the development and provision of freight and passenger rail facilities and services in Oregon.

The 13-member committee, chaired by Albany Mayor Chuck McLaran, represents diverse interests in rail transportation statewide. Committee members were appointed by ODOT Director Matt Garret and will meet several times a year. Committee members include:

- Andrew Johnsen, *BNSF Railway*, representing Class 1 rail lines
 - John Gray, *Union Pacific Railroad*, representing Class 1 rail lines
 - Dave Root, *Willamette Valley Railway Company*, representing shortline railroads
 - Bruce Carswell, *Portland & Western Railroad*, representing shortline railroads
-

- Delmer Hansen, *United Transportation Union*, representing labor
- Elizabeth O'Donoghue, *Amtrak*, representing Class 1 passenger rail lines
- Bob Krebs, *retired*, representing rail passengers
- Bob Lowry, *retired*, representing rail passengers
- Chuck McLaran, *Mayor of Albany*, representing local government
- Mike Hayward, *Wallowa County*, representing local government
- Craig Levie, *Port of Portland*, representing ports
- Paul Langner, *Teevin Brothers*, representing businesses
- Ray Barbee, *Roseburg Forest Products*, representing businesses

All Rail Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Meeting dates, times and locations will be announced later.

ODOT February 3, 2006 News Release

Note: This Committee replaces the disbanded Oregon Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (OPRAC).

SDP40F #644 Back to Work



Photo by Arlen L. Sheldrake, 2.12.2006

This last locomotive of its kind owned by Northwest Rail Museum has been leased by Portland & Western Railroad to augment their power and will probably be working between Albany and Beaverton after some equipment installation during late February in Albany.

The #644 was built in August 1974 by GE's EMD for Amtrak as was part of Amtrak's first order of new locomotives numbered 500 thru 649. After Amtrak service the #644 became Santa Fe #5266 in the early 1980s and pulled freight trains. BNSF renumbered the unit to #6976 and continued it in freight service for a short time. In June 2002 BNSF 6976 was pulled from storage and sent to the National Railway Equipment shop to be repainted for use as a display locomotive at the grand opening of Maersk's Pier 400 container terminal at the Port of Los Angeles in August. The unit received a special distinctive blue and silver Maersk paint scheme which it still wears today minus the Maersk name.

Just before the scrapper was called, Portland area railfans Dan Calhoun and Chris Fussell worked with BNSF to purchase the locomotive and donated it to the Northwest Rail Museum.

(This information from Ed Immel & extracted from the Web site: www.f40phr231.org.)

Another 4-8-4 Stomping Around

Feb. 2, 2006: ex-Reading 2100 made a successful test run up the Tacoma hill and was used in a sound recording event for Warner Bros. The sounds of 2100 will be used in an upcoming movie. We can not release the name of the movie due to contract restrictions. There are plans to use the 2100 for regular excursion services in 2006. See Golden Pacific Railroad web site at <http://www.gpr.com> for more information.

President's Update – by Arlen L. Sheldrake

Amtrak Cascades announced January 30th record ridership of 636,892 for 2005; a 5.6 percent increase over 2004. The overall increase in Amtrak Cascades ridership is largely attributable to a strong economy, rising gas prices and good service delivery. Service is provided between Eugene, Oregon and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Congratulations to Arnie Holden, *a/k/a Santa*, who wrote the recommendation and to the sponsor/custodian Pacific Railroad Preservation Association (PRPA) for the January 25th listing of the **SP&S 700** on the National Register of Historic Places.

The **Battleground, Yacolt & Chelatchie Prairie Railroad** (BYCX) is back and running for 2006. Trips run Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend on weekends and holidays; departures for the 10-mile run are 11 AM and 2 PM from Yacolt. More information: www.bycx.com.

Chapter member, *Trainmaster* article author, and UPRR Conductor **Tom Smith** is on the 13 member Clark County Railroad Advisory Committee.

For those working in the Chapter archives it is no understatement that we have many treasures. Discovered early in February was a 1' by 2' bronze plaque in a wooden box shipped from Southern Pacific General Offices in San Francisco to Bruce S. Quayle, PT&PRM, Southern Pacific Company, Pacific Building, Portland Oregon.

This beautiful plaque commemorating the Southern Pacific Company donation of the SP 4449 to the City of Portland has been turned over to the Friends of SP 4449, the current custodians of this fine locomotive. Bob Melbo's references indicate Bruce's title PT&PRM is short for: Passenger Traffic and Public Relations Manager.

Once again the SP 4449 will be on live display at the **15th Annual Sherwood Cruisin'** on June 10th in Sherwood's historic old town. In addition to the 4449 and purchasing an ORHF shirt and sweatshirt you can expect to see more than 650 interesting automobiles.

Approximately \$89 million in rail requests have been received by the **ConnectOregon** project. These requests will be reviewed this spring by the newly formed Oregon Rail Advisory Committee. **ConnectOregon** is a legislatively authorized lottery-bond-based initiative (\$100 million) to invest in air, rail, marine, and transit in Oregon.

The tentative schedule for **Artrain USA** includes visits to Skykomish Washington April 29 – May 2 and Medford Oregon May 11-14. This tour's theme is *Native Views: Influences of Modern Culture*. More information: www.artrainusa.org.

On Sunday March 5th, Trackmobile driver Doyle McCormack and car spotter Keith Fleschner jockeyed a bunch of cars at Brooklyn to spot the 6800 and Mt. Hood in good locations for their wheel work.

Congratulations to the **Mount Hood Railroad** which is celebrating 100 years of operation, 1906 – 2006, with another aggressive season. The schedule and tickets are available by calling 541.386.3556 or 800.872.4661 or www.mthoodrr.com.

Sadly over the March 4-5 weekend **graffiti vandals** did significant painting vandalism on the Chapter 55 and 1220 rail cars while stored in Beaverton. The Chapter reports all crimes to the proper authorities. On March 12th Keith Fleschner fixed the graffiti damage.

Hopefully you enjoyed the 12-page March issue of *The Trainmaster*, lots of good material to publish; let's keep the input coming. Thanks to Ron McCoy's for his excellent 2005 Annual Report! If you are not a writer, send your article tips to me. If you are a writer, send your article to the Chapter's email address and it will get forwarded to Glenn Laubaugh.

It was disappointing to hear March 8th the planned spring trips by the SP&S 700 to Wishram and the April SP 4449 trip to Bend have been scrubbed. Both groups are continuing to work on passenger trip opportunities.

On March 9th I received my "*Advance Mailing Request*" copy of the registration materials for **Buckeye Rails 2006**, the July 18-23 NRHS National Convention in New Philadelphia Ohio. Looks to me like the Committee of NRHS members (no Chapter stepped up to host) has put together a real winner.

PRESENTED
BY THE
SOUTHERN PACIFIC CO
TO THE
CITY OF PORTLAND
APRIL 1958

The need to re-print the March issue of *The Trainmaster* only slightly delayed the delivery thanks to the quick actions of Glenn Laubaugh, Oregon Quality Printing, Darel Mack, and Maxine Rodabaugh.

New book recently out: **Rails To Paradise**, *The History of the Tacoma Eastern Railroad* (1890-1919) by Russell Holter & Jesse Clark McAbee, 500 pages, 400 rare photos. \$64.95 plus \$6.95 shipping (WA residents add \$5.76 tax). Send check to Russell Holter, PO Box 1805, Tacoma WA 98401-1805. More information: www.railstoparadise.com.

Be on the lookout for the rollout soon of our **Volunteer Time Recognition** system. The Chapter Board has determined that we need to know the many volunteer hours that are performed in support of the Chapter. This information will be used for recognition and grant proposal purposes.

More information on the **SP&S #539 2-8-2** located on the Battle Ground Fairgrounds Park: According to *The Oregonian* March 14th article, the locomotive and tender will be moved on separate flat cars to Longview for restoration by new owner Brian Fleming. The #539 was built in 1917 and retired in August 1944. The locomotive was transferred to the city of Vancouver on October 4, 1957 and located in Esther Short Park for 40 years then nine years in Battle Ground. Brian's objective is to return the #539 to service by Memorial Day 2007.

As of March 17th a total of 303 **Go By Train 2005** official convention videos have been sold raising \$1,515 net dollars for the Chapter. Many thanks to photographer, producer and distributor, Joe Harper for his excellent efforts!

Members should watch for an invitation to a special Chapter meeting in May to review the draft **Chapter Vision** document being developed by 21 Board and Committee Chairs on April 8th with the assistance of Alice Parman, Ph.D., organizational coach.

2006 Meeting Snack Sign-Ups

The following members have graciously volunteered to prepare the monthly membership meeting snacks funded by attendee contributions:

January	= Dick & Judy Ordway	July	= available
February	= Keith Fleschner	August	= available
March	= Keith Fleschner	September	= Diana & Daryl Mack
April	= Judy Ordway	October	= Rosemary Scheel & Sara Ackerman
May	= Jim Loomis	November	= available
June	= Jim Hokinson	December	= Potluck

To volunteer for *available* months, contact Arlen at 503.223.7006 or rita_sheldrake@msn.com.

PNWC-NRHS Membership meeting minutes

Chapter President Arlen Sheldrake called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and introduced guest Dave Larson.

Leonard Morgan moved to approve the October membership minutes as published in the November *Trainmaster*, and the long-lost June minutes, as published in the December *Trainmaster*. Jim Hokinson seconded, and the motion passed.

Arlen thanked Keith Fleschner for providing refreshments for the meeting, and reminded members that having refreshments at meetings depends on whether volunteers step up to provide refreshments.

Membership Chair Diana Mack thanked the many members who have already renewed their memberships, even though delays at the national level have created problems with the dues renewal process.

The Chapter Board voted to submit to the membership a proposal to establish a budget of \$6000 for professional services and meeting accommodations to have Dr. Alice Parman assist

the Chapter to develop a long-term vision for the organization. Beginning in April, the Chapter Board and Committee Chairs will spend a day working with Dr. Parman a draft vision. In May a special membership meeting will be na Mack moved to approve the budget, and John Willworth seconded. The motion passed. Members with ideas and concerns were encouraged to talk with any board member or committee chair.

Jim Hokinson and Jim Long are working on a method to track the number of hours donated by volunteers who work on Chapter projects. This information will be beneficial in grant applications and help document the tremendous amount of time that Chapter members donate to the organization.

Arlen announced that the board has voted to discontinue mailing exchange copies of the *Trainmaster* to Chapters outside the Pacific Northwest region. Like many other chapters, the *Trainmaster* will be available in electronic form to other NRHS chapters who wish to continue receiving the *Trainmaster*.

At the February board meeting, the board also approved having Arlen, as President, send a letter to the president of the Columbia River Chapter, inviting members of the Columbia River Chapter to join the Pacific Northwest Chapter.

Darel Mack said the annual banquet will be Saturday, April 1 at Saylor's Country Kitchen on SE Stark Street near Interstate 205. No-host cocktails at 6 will be followed by dinner at 7 and Bill Bain's program on the Chapter's 50th anniversary. Darel said that donations of door prizes are always welcome.

Archives Committee Chair Chuck McGaffey said that the Chapter is developing a plan to create a computerized catalog of the Chapter archives and library. Anyone interested in assisting is welcome to contact Chuck at 503-223-2227.

Keith Fleschner said that Chapter CMO Pete Rodabaugh has been busy with weather-related work on rolling stock, and preparing for upcoming wheel work projects on the Mt. Hood and 6800.

Concessions Chair Al Hall said that the Chapter's improved financial situation speaks volumes about what a large number of hard-working volunteers can do. In addition to the generous bequest of past president Chuck Storz, he cited the efforts of Joe Harper whose sales of railroad videos benefits the Chapter. Joe has videos of the Convention, the UP 3985's visit to Oregon, the Coast Express excursion on the Coos Bay branch, and the recent Holiday Express runs. Email Joe at train671@aol.com to purchase one or all of these fine videos. Al's next concessions appearance was scheduled to be at the Camp Withycombe swap meet February 25.

Chapter member Doug Auberg, also Treasurer of the Chelatchie

Prairie Railroad Association, clarified some points touched on in a recent Trainmaster article. The bottom line is that the CPRA has reached an agreement to sub-lease the north end of the line, and the CPRA is working to resume operations in time for Memorial Day weekend. Current restoration projects include a 2-8-2 Minaret.

In other news:

Chapter member and MHR Leonard Morgan said the Mt. Hood Railroad is celebrating 100 years of railroading with a full schedule of excursion, brunch and dinner trains.

A recent article in Railfan & Railroad magazine featured an in-depth look at the Washington Park & Zoo Railway.

Ralph Johnson said the evening's program would be a screening of Joe Harper's video "Holiday Steam" featuring the SP4449 and SP&S 700 on the Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation's December runs on Oregon Pacific Railroad's Springwater line from OMSI to Oaks Park.


Arlen adjourned the meeting at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Long
Secretary, PNWC-NRHS

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Ralph Johnson (05, 06, 07) 503.654.1930
Jim Hokinson (finish out 2006, 07 term) 503.635.4826
Mark Reynolds (06, 07, 08) 638.7411
Charles Stevens (06, 07, 08) 503.692.6611
William D. Hyde (04, 05, 06) 503. 666. 7941
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Meeting Programs: Ralph Johnson 503. 654.1930
Concessions: Al Hall 503.699.5042
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Excursions: Al Hall 503.699.5042
Car Host: Darel Mack 503. 723.3345
Finance: See <i>Vice President</i>
Flanger Restoration: Eileen Brazil 503.647.5667
Library: Irv Ewen 503.232-2441
Membership: Diana Mack, 503. 723.3345
Museum: Glenn Laubaugh, 503. 655.5466
Public Relations: Gerald Schuler, 503. 285.7941
Memorial Funds: Gerald Schuler, 503.285.7941
Rolling Stock: vacant, contact President, above
Chief Mechanical Officer: Peter Rodabaugh, 503. 771.8545

Car Rental Agent: Bob Jackson, 503. 231.4808 Safety Officer: Keith Fleschner 503.516.9272 Chapter Rep., Oregon Rail Heritage Foundation: Arlen Sheldrake 503.223.7006

	
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