The Great Northern & Cascade Railway is Rolling





Spring 2013 - www.dflatblues.com/SkykomishHistoricalSociety

With more than 1,000 smiling visitors enjoying upwards of 4,000 rides during the 4 & 5 May"soft" opening weekend of the Great Northern & Cascade Railway, Skykomish continues to chug toward realizing the vision of a railroad-themed Town Center. Hundreds of volunteers working long hours most weekends and some weekdays all winter laid the half-mile loop of track that includes a tunnel, a bridge, switches, and landscaping.

That there is a GNCR at all is predominantly due to the tireless efforts of town councilman Kevin Wiederstrom, who promoted his dream of 7.5-inch gauge operational railroad since even before he moved to Sky. He has been aptly aided by Bill Zingheim and Grant Crandall who commute nearly every weekend from near Port Townsend to toil tirelessly to bring it all about. They are both 7.5-inch gauge railroad veterans. Four independent owners brought engines to run on GNCR tracks and haul visitors for the opening.

Landscape design and expertise is being donated by Ken Nesland, a landscape contractor from Monroe. The Friday before the opening there were more than 20 volunteers moving dirt and placing and planting trees, shrubs, and flowers transforming the west end of the center into a park.

There were also three 4H model railroad displays in the Depot, which now has a new roof, a new platform, and an all-new west face in the original three-window configuration. The next phase,

the ADA accessible bathroom, is expected to be completed soon.

The weekend included a market in Maloney's Store, and an SHS booth in front of our new space at the store.

Return of the Whistling Post

Just nine months and 17 days after the Whistling Post was destroyed by an arson fire, a brand new W. P. opened to the public 27 Jan.

The speed of the rebuild was a tribute to all involved. Owners Teddy Jo and Charlie couldn't picture Sky without a W.P. so instead of taking the insurance money and heading for somewhere dry and warm, they committed to rebuilding. Friend Fred Dowdy became general contractor; friend Bob Hull donated his architectural expertise; the town promptly approved permits; and a combination of contract labor and volunteers got busy.

Teddy Jo found a complete 1903 (the year the original W.P. was built) bar online in Cincinnati but available for pick up in Omaha. She bought it sight-unseen, then she and Charlie rented a truck and brought it home. A welcoming party greeted them upon their return, and a large

group of volunteers unloaded it that day.

The new version of the W.P. sports a number of spiffy improvements such as a purpose built kitchen and a foot rail at the bar made from an actual railroad rail, but the all-important "feel" is exactly that of the Whistling Post of yore, thus Skykomish feels like Skykomish again.



The historic looking but new and improved Whistling Post open for business.

Museum Move

Contracts are being let to prepare our new museum space at Maloney's Store. It is anticipated we will be in by fall.

The new heating, wiring, and ADA bathroom have been completed by the town, who is the landlord, so we can now configure our part of the building for our occupancy.

The move will be performed by BNSF movers as the final phase of the railroad's responsibilities to us for our having to be relocated to temporary space during the oil-spill clean-up. The old Maloney Store fixtures bought by SHS before the move will be returned to the building at that time as well.

"Art Week" in Sky

Twenty erstwhile artists will spend the week of 24 June at Maloney's Store taking part in the third annual Art Week in Skykomish. Cornish School art instructor and SHS member Beanne Hull is again presenting the popular event.

If past patterns repeat, the attendees will come from all over the Northwest and range in age from seven to 77.

The five-day program will consist of a day each devoted to photography, printmaking, and drawing, with the last two days focused on painting.

In addition to instruction from Beanne, on Tuesday artist and illustrator Chloe Alfred will share Japanese printmaking techniques and help the class explore the textures of Sky. Wednesday architect and illustrator Anita Lehmann will offer drawing instruction.

Friday the 28th a show will be mounted at Maloney's to present everyone's work to "Celebrate Skykomish" at an open house beginning at 5 p.m. with the whole town invited. The event will be catered by "Toot Sweet" the new candy store that has recently opened in the old post office section of the Store building.

Museum Hours Saturdays 10-4 All Summer

SHS has contracted with Karen Molesky to be responsible for keeping the museum open regular hours all summer.

Although she began work as a typesetter, and has 30 years experience in related fields, for the last decade she has been a freelance graphic designer with emphasis on print design, and of late has turned to website design. In addition to being at the museum or seeing that someone else is, she will be working on special projects.

SHS Successful at Finding Support

Sometimes it takes money to get money and thanks in part to our successful Capital Campaign fund raising, SHS has had an excellent year acquiring grants and other financial support. Both Puget Sound Energy and Stevens Pass Mountain Resort have subscribed as "Heritage Partners" at \$2,500 each.

We were awarded an \$11,915 4Culture (the agency that disburses a portion of King Co. lodging tax revenue) "Equipment" grant for shelving, display materials, comfortable chairs and tables, and a patron work-station complete with computer for our new museum space.

We have also received a 4Culture "Heritage Sustained Support" grant for \$3,000 for each of the next two years to be used for operational



expenses. Some of these funds will help keep our museum open longer hours and more days.

Our other successful grants have been to benefit the Sky Town Center Depot restoration project. Two grants from 4Culture totaling \$34,000 have been or are being used to build the platform and to restore the interior to a 1920s configuration, with separate waiting rooms for women and men using original tongue and groove wallboard. Another grant brought \$3000 from Colonial Dames of Washington to merge the old men's and women's bathrooms into an ADA accessible one, plus a \$900 Valerie Sivinski Grant through Washington Trust for Historic Preservation is being used for exterior paint and trim.

One more grant application for the town is for improvements in Maloney's Store building. We are "in the running" we were told, but there is a lot of competition. The awards will be announced the end of June.

Pavia on Board

Dr. Don Pavia, WWU Professor Emeritus in Organic Chemistry, has joined the SHS Board of Directors. Of late Don and wife Neva have been commuting to Sky weekends to work on "The Skykomish Project" with Bob Kelly, and the GNCR.

Skykomish Calendar of Events

Open Air Markets:

July 13 August 10 Sept 14

Music in the Park

A full slate of activities is on tap for Music in the Park 17 August, sponsored by the Sky Chamber of Commerce.

The day will begin at two p.m. with a King Co. Library program "The Looney Band Unearthed Show" where three archeologists discover musical instruments belonging to an ancient band and create some hilarious fun and silly songs.

The line-up for the Ballpark is:

3 - 4:45 The Joy Mills Band

5 - 6:45 Arkansas and the River Bandits

7 - 8:45 The Weatherheads

9 -11:00 Knut Bell and the Blue Collars

Bring a picnic or buy food from Sky PTSO cook shack. The event is free, but donations are greatly encouraged; they are what keep the music coming.



New Old Engine Arrives in Sky

Skykomish Town Center has received the first of what is hoped will be several donations of railroad equipment from BNSF. Engine GN 1731, a diesel electric EMD SD9 built as GN599 in 1958, is now in Sky. It ran some years on the Cascade Division before moving to Klamath Falls. It was taken out of service in 2006. Sky old-timer Ted Cleveland recalls being at the throttle of the 1731 a few times.

The engine will ultimately be placed on display track in front of the depot, per Kevin Wiederstrom, Town Center Project Manager. For years the town held hopes of bringing Engine 1246, the last steam engine to run through town, back from Oregon to be part of the rail display, but costs have proven prohibitive. Kevin hopes the modest "1246 fund," presently held by SHS as custodian, can be used to paint the 1731.

Work Continues on Pepot Rehab

Although work on the Great Northern & Cascade Railway seemed to dominate events at the Town Center throughout the spring, rehabbing the Depot continues



HO Scale Model of Sky Pepot

With detail assistance from SHS Great Northern Railway Historical Society has produced an HO scale model of the Skykomish depot.

SHS provided detailed drawings and photographs for the final design of the model. GNRHS then selected the model company and built a prototype to validate the feasibility. Designed for advanced modelers it provides a partial interior with the roof lifting off to see inside.

This model (above) is of the 106 foot depot many people will remember on railroad Avenue that was the original 1898 depot moved across the tracks in 1922, with the 46 by 24 freight and baggage area added at the east end.

The first 25 of these models have been sold out and GNRHS will be adding more to their online store in the future. The price from GNRHS is \$139.95 for non-members.

-- Bob Kelly

Great Northern Day

GN Day in Skykomish will be September 14 at the Masonic Hall. We will again work with the Great Northern Railway Historical Society to jointly present the event.

This free and open to the public day will include presentations about GN history, updates on GNRHS and SHS activities, time for a long lunch and walk around Sky to visit the market that is on the same day, a visit to the Great Northern and Cascade Railway for a ride and to see the progress on the depot refurbishment.

Tables will also be provided for people to display GN items that they bring. The program starts at 9:30 am and will end about 4:00 pm. If there are questions about this event, please contact Bob Kelly at 425-432-3884

to progress. As part of the settlement of great oil-spill clean-up the Depot was given to the town by BNSF.

The town built a foundation and the railroad placed the Depot on it to serve as a Visitors' Center. To date a new roof, an all new west wall done in the three-window configuration the Depot sported when built in 1898, and a new platform have been completed.

Exterior painting, existing window rehab, refinishing the interior in the original tongue and grove wallboard, and combining the old separate tiny mens' and women's bathrooms into a single ADA compliant bathroom are all underway at the moment.

Town Center project manager Kevin Wiederstrom would like to particularly cite town maintenance employee David Childs for his many volunteer hours.

When completed the Depot interior will include a complete "operators office" furnished with many original fixtures circa the 1920s.

Valuable Collections Shared

Bonnie Hollingsworth has donated extensive materials about the Strandrud family. Albert Strandrud was a Great Northern engineer who lived at Wellington. He was away in Seattle getting married in March of 1910 when "The Great Slide" occurred. Many of the items are railroad related, but there are also materials about Mamie Strandrud McIntyre and her husband Bob who worked for the National Park Service. Mamie was the daughter of Albert and Elizabeth Strandrud who married Bonnie's uncle Bob McIntyre.

Linda Coughlin gifted the society a large railroad collection from the estate of William J Coughlin who worked for the GN/BN for over 50 years. In the materials are very unique photographs taken at Wellington prior to 1900 including a view inside the dining room of the Bailets Hotel. Perhaps the most meaningful item for Skykomish is the earliest known photograph of the first depot c 1898. Included among the items

are records of every train Mr. Coughlin worked on for his entire career.

Ralph Hildreth provided some unique Maloney family photographs including the only confirmed photograph showing the interior of the store in Skykomish soon after it opened. Also in the collection are rare hand written letters from John F. Stevens to John Maloney and after his death to John's wife Louise.

New SHS member Marilyn Windsheimer of Renton, step-granddaughter of James McEvoy, son of Skykomish Pioneer Paddy McEvoy, recently brought a number of photos of early Skykomish that include James, Paddy, and others. She also printed for us a chapter about building the Great Northern Railway from an early History of King County. We were, in exchange, able to offer copies of photos from our collection to help round out McEvoy family history for her family archives.

-- Bob Kelly

Membership News

SHS continues to grow and SHS particularly wants to thank those members who responded to our recent letter regarding "catching up" on dues or re-establishing membership.

As a reminder, annual dues are now meant to run January to January. A reminder will be sent with the Calendar in the fall.

Membership is easy and rewarding. You get newsletters, the historical calendar, and the satisfaction of supporting our valuable work preserving upper valley history. Dues are \$20 (\$15 for seniors & students) or \$35 for a family.

New Members: Nancy Bardan & Ed Hill, Kent; Keith Peter, Sky, Marilyn Windsheimer, Renton; James R. Vyerberg, Kalamazoo, MI; Keena & David Zerger, Baring.

Skykomish Historical Society P.O. Box 247, Skykomish, WA 98288 skykomishhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com

Skykomish Environmental Institute

The fledgling Skykomish Environmental Institute continues to expand its role as it rolls into its second year of existence making progress on numerous fronts.

SEI volunteers now monitor the Maloney Creek restoration, created as part of the oil clean-up in Sky, involving observing and recording habitat improvement and flood abatement status. Volunteers walk the creek measuring sediment accumulation levels and photographing more than 75 specific locations from the upper creek to the Sky River.

Salmon monitoring is an offshoot of this process, and town residents Federico Seco De Lucena and Karen Molesky, both graphic designers, have created an SEI web site that features among other information a salmon blog developed by Rich Yarges, co-owner of Sky Deli. Anyone can log onto www. skykomishenvironmentalinstitute.org and track the salmon when they are coming up to spawn.

SEI has assisted the town in writing and submitting more than ten grant proposals for environmental improvements in the area. Recently the town was awarded Dept. of Ecology grant to develop a .2-mile interpretive trail along Maloney Creek adjacent to the town boundary. Plans for this year include construction of a platform to overlook the creek at the trail terminus. The town has approved matching Ecology funds for this project, including development of a Naturescape Educational Area for children to be created at a later date

Volunteers are always welcome. Contact skykomishsei@gmail.com.

Special thanks to Cathy Bittner and Rose Marie Koch for their volunteer work at the museum Tuesdays.



2ND ANNUAL DINSMORE'S CLASSIC CAR PICNIC

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE BARING BOOSTER'S TO HELP PAY MAINTENANCE, TAXES, AND INSURANCE ON OUR LOCAL CHILDREN'S PARK. THIS PROPERTY WAS DONATED TO THE BARING BOOSTERS YEARS AGO FOR THE KIDS AND HAS SINCE BEEN CARED FOR BY THE LOCAL OID GUYS. US OLD GUYS ARE NOW THE BARING BOOSTERS.

BUFFET PICNIC LUNCH

DIRECTIONS TO DINSMORE'S EAST OF MONROE ON HWY 2 MM41 60 TO THE BARING STORE TURN UP OVER RR TRACKS AT 635TH ST. LEFT ON 197TH PLACE