

# Puget Sound Garden Railroading

www.PSGRS.org

Official Newsletter of the Puget Sound Garden Railway Society







The staff of the newsletter wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy New Year filled with your favorite railroading activities.



At the November Puyallup show club members run trains and talk with visitors.

Photo by Bill Thurston.

## The Wheels Keep Turning

Article and photos by Norm Baullinger, President.

Well, no big travel this month so this will have to be a run of the mill column. The holidays are upon us. Thanksgiving is past and I'm wondering if any of you have completed your Christmas shopping. There shouldn't be any excuse as the stores have had their holiday stuff out since before Halloween. Pretty soon it will be Christmas year around! Anyway, our Christmas party and auction will be on December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Elks in Lynnwood. It is a potluck luncheon; there will be a Christmas basket raffle and silent auction and a live auctions. This is a good time to shop for those needed, or just nice to have, items and the potluck is usually very well stocked (please bring more than just a bag of chips.)

Members can bring items to be auctioned for either the silent or live auctions. In last month's newsletter, there were tags you could put on each item donated to be auctioned off. The live auction will feature a locomotive or two, cars, lots of code 250 rail, turnouts, power supplies, etc. This has always been a very lively and enjoyable activity. Details were published in last months (November) newsletter and are repeated in this issue on page 9.

Mike Phillips, phillipsmk@comcast.net, still needs one more volunteer to present a clinic in February. If he doesn't get them, you may have to listen to me give one or two and I'd rather not. And you would probably rather not listen to me either. So please consider telling us about your latest project and how you did it, especially if you came up with a neat idea on how to do something (see article on page 6.)

Our club had our electric modules at the Puyallup Train show last month. A couple of highlights. We did a good job in recruiting. Three new and one returning members signed up at the show, our new "fencing" around the modules was used for the first time and looks great, and we installed new

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power supplies for each of the tracks. There is more on the show in a following article.

It's not too early to start thinking about running for office. I've been president now for three years and have enjoyed it. As it's been our custom, it is now time for someone else to have the privilege. This is a way to get to know more people in the club and become familiar with its operation. All positions are open for nominations. Existing board members have agreed to run for their current position but don't let that stop you from throwing your hat in the ring. However, due to work schedules, Jerry Madsen, our current VP, will not run for the presidency as has been customary. Let me know, climber729@aol.com, if you would like to run for an office or have a suggestion who might be interested (or have their arm twisted and railroaded in.)

We have had a small change in our newsletter staff. Bill Thurston and Beth Maclaren have switched responsibilities. Bill will now become the editor and Beth will be assisting him. Note, there will be no newsletter in January due to all the holiday activities taking up our editor's time in December when the newsletter would normally be prepared (*see following articles.*)

We will have our electric module at the Worlds Greatest Hobby (Show) on Tour in Puyallup on January 21-22. As always, members are encouraged to come and help set up and take down the modules as well as run their trains during the show. Those that come on the day before (Friday) the show starts to help set up get an exhibitor badge to allow them entry into the show the next two days. An e-mail will be sent out in January to all members with the details and set up time.

February 18 brings our clinics in Auburn, followed by our yearly business meeting on March 18 at the Puyallup Eagles where we conduct club business and elect officers. April starts our hosted meetings at member houses. This year, at the business meeting, I'm proposing that we supplement each host \$50 to help pay for supplies, food, drink, etc. that they contribute as host. Mark Jennings maintains the schedule for hosting a meeting so if you want to host a meeting next year, please contact him at m.jennings32@gmail.com.

I wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and hope to see many of you at the Christmas party as well as at the hobby show in Puyallup in January. I'm heading to Chicago on the Amtrak Empire Builder in February after the clinics to keep my wheels turning. How about you?

## Introducing our New Newsletter Editor

By Beth MacLaren

Bill Thurston and I, Beth MacLaren, met at the Puyallup Train Show for Friday set-up, and as we waited for the trailers, we talked about our experiences for the month of October. Bill had agreed to handle the newsletter without me while I was in Mexico, although I did manage to proofread it just before he sent it out to the printer.

During my absence, Bill discovered that it was actually easier for him to assemble the newsletter with editorial control at his command. At the same time, during my stay in Mexico, I had some time for self-reflection during which it became abundantly clear to me that I have over-committed to things that are laudable and enjoyable (or not), but which are edging out my personal priorities. I need to rebalance how I spend my time.

The serendipity of Friday's encounter is that we have mutually agreed that effective immediately Bill will take over as Newsletter Editor. I will continue to proofread the draft copy prior to publication. To be honest, this is my better skill. Please give Bill your full support.

Newsletter submissions should now be sent to Bill. His email address is thurston.bill@gmail.com and if you want to talk with him about whether there is room for the short article or photos you mean to send, his phone number is (253) 265-1712. Photos are best sent at full size, to print well. If they are too big, Bill can resize them. If they are too small, they just don't work well in a printed format.

## Thanks to Beth

By Bill Thurston

On behalf of all our club members, I would like to extend my thanks to Beth for the work she has done as editor this past year. I am particularly thankful that she has agreed to continue to provide her invaluable service as proof reader for the newsletter.

## More Newsletter News

By Bill Thurston

As usual, there will be no January issue of the newsletter. However, the deadline for submittal of items for the February issue will be earlier than usual due to some travel I have scheduled. Please submit any items that you want to appear in the February issue to me (thurston.bill@gmail.com) no later than January 15.



## **Great Train Expo**

Compiled by Bill Thurston with input from Norm Baullinger, Beth MacLaren and Brent Stuvland.

In last month's newsletter article about the Lynden train show, Mark Jennings urged better attendance at the train shows where the club sets up the electric modules. His words seemed to be heeded as at least 20 members showed up to help set up the modules at the Great Train show in Puyallup on Nov 11. No doubt the better attendance was in part due to the show's location which was closer to home for many of us and did not require an overnight stay for as many as do shows in Lynden and Mt. Vernon. Nevertheless, thanks to Mark for reminding us and helping to get the large turnout.

Members on Friday helping with setup included Beth and Don MacLaren, Bob Videmsek, Barry DiGuilio, Chuck and Sharon Carlson, Alex Osenbach, Jerry Madsen, Ed Mattison, Leo Arndt, Brent Stuvland, Alan and Bev Melrose, Norm Baullinger, Terry Lattin, Joe O'Daniels, Tom Briggs, Tom Zimmer, Mark Sauerwald, and Bud Harrington. Also in the building were members Rae and Mary Mitchell and Ron Ball who were busy setting up booths to sell some of their inventory. In the two subsequent days, Nathan Smith and Patty and Chris Johnson also made it to the show. Apologies to any members that we missed.

Norm reported that Bill Zingheim and a fellow named Clark stopped by to thank the club for sponsoring several people to help remove rail from Tom Murray's 7 ½" outdoor layout. Tom has donated ten steam locomotives, cars and 10,000 feet of track with switches to be re-installed at Mineral near the Mt. Rainier Railroad location. This will be a railroad like the Great Northern & Cascade Railroad at Skykomish. Bill and Clark are the key people in making this happen and several of our members have helped in removing track (see page 6 for more details.)

Kevin Carrigan brought his 92 year old father Leonard to the show with his Challenger locomotive that he had never seen run. While at the show, Leonard signed up as a member.

His locomotive was a nice MTH locomotive. However, it must have been old as the rubber traction bands on the driver wheels were so old and soft that they disintegrated as it ran on the track leaving "melted" rubber on the rails of our outside track. After several people tried cleaning the with LGB smoke fluid and cleaner, that really didn't work, Norm came the next morning with acetone and cleaned up the track.

Norm reported that we purchased new power supplies for the layout as we had been having issues with one of them. We purchase them from Mark Sauerwald, who owns Bridgewerks which sells power supplies, and is a member of

Continued on next page.

Photos on this page by Bill Thurston.



Barry DiGuilio, Brent Stuvland, Terry Lattin with his back to us, Norm Baullinger, and Alan Melrose working on setup.



Alex Osenbach and Jerry Madsen looking very serious.



Leo Arndt looks on while Tom Zimmer adjusts a track connector.

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our club. He and Alex Osenbach diagnosed a continuity issue on our inside track and fixed it.

Beth noted that there was one eye-catching improvement to the module set up. There has been grumbling for some time about how rusty and battered the bases for our "fencing" had become. Chuck Carlson took the initiative to make some new bases for the posts. The new bases are made of wood, and patterned on some spotted on another group's post bases. Alan and Bev Melrose then primed and painted the bases. And instead of several lengths of fraying yellow rope, we now have two lengths of yellow plastic chain (one length was not long enough to go the distance) with metal fittings that allow tidy joining and a nice gate opening. The old yellow plastic rope has gone to Jerry Madsen's house for repurposing, rather than being put in the landfill (see the "Stanchions" article on next page for more back ground info.)

Next up is repair and repainting of the posts, including the two plastic pipe posts that hold our sign. And Beth says she wants to do some repainting of dinged up Styrofoam landscape pieces next time we set up, which will be mid-January, again in Puyallup.

On Saturday I (Bill) did not get to the show until about 1PM, but the modules seemed well staffed with 10 or so members there and trains running. I did not hear of any train wrecks, excited kids pulling locos off the track, or other significant problems. That changed when I got there and started running my rail truck. Distracted by conversation, I did not notice a stalled train ahead and ran into the back end of it. Fortunately the rail truck is light and the only apparent damage was that the truck cow catcher got knocked off. I don't think the train car I ran into was damaged.

Sunday was even better staffed than Saturday with about 15 members on hand during the day and available to help take down and load up the modules. And Brent Stuvland, our membership chairman, reports that during the show the club signed up new members Bob Stevenson, Leonard Carrigan, and Jack Kowitt and returning member Mark Wright. We welcome them to the club and hope to see all at the Christmas Party in December.

All in all, it was a good show. A big thanks to all our volunteers, including the truck and trailer drivers. You are what makes it all happen!



Above: Alex Osenbach and Mark Sauerwald at work on the track.

Below: New member Leonard Carrigan watches as Jerry Madsen runs Leonard's Challenger locomotive.

Photos by Norm Baullinger.





## **Club Layout Stanchions**

By Chuck Carlson

One of things I enjoy about visiting layouts and train shows is seeing someone else's ideas/techniques and say that's cool; why didn't I think of that. I could use that on my layout.

Well, at the Lynden Show the ladies of our club did just that: they saw another club's idea on bases and plastic chain link for their perimeter layout stanchions. Sharon Carlson and Bev Melrose saw these wooden bases and thought – "they look better than our concrete cans and weigh less and the chain link looks better than our rope". After discussions with Norm and Brent about changing our bases and rope, they approached me and said "if you can make these, Bev will paint them".

So, Sharon and I made 36 bases and procured 200 ft of yellow plastic chain link for our layout. I drilled a hole in the center block of six of the bases. By attaching poles by a bolt, you can stack six of the bases and carry by grabbing the pole. This also works for storing the bases in the trailer. Alan and Bev Melrose painted the bases and they were first used at the Puyallup Train Show.



Above: The new stanchions and chain help protect club modules. Below: A close up of the stanchion bases.

Photos by Sharon Carlson.





Tom Briggs chats on the phone while Beth MacLaren, Sharon Carlson (far back) and Bev Melrose attach the curtains to the modules.

Photos By Bill Thurston.



Norm Baullinger, Barry DiGuilio, Jerry Madsen, and brand new member (signed up at show) Bob Stevenson get ready to run trains.



*Tom Zimmer's Atlantic heading up a passenger train.* Photo By Bill Thurston.





Marge Curtis, a charter member of the club, celebrates her birthday at the Tall Tales Club breakfast on Nov. 2. Photo by Norm Baullinger.



## More Hosts Needed

By Mark Jennings

I have reached two thirds (2/3) of my goal to have hosts for the six meetings planned for 2017. The list now includes Chuck & Sharon Carlson (April), Glenn & Barb Shadduck (June), Alex & Cauline Osenbach (July) and David Drake & Wife (August). As you can see, the only remaining opportunities are for May (think splendor of spring flowers and warm winds) and September (think sunshine and cool breezes, brilliant colors).

## The 2017 Clinics

By Mike Phillips

Mark your calendar for February 18, 2017 (third Saturday in Feb) for the club's annual clinics. The clinics will be held again at the Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn. Our potluck lunch will start at 11:30 and the program at 12:00 so please plan on arriving early with your potluck item. We'll start with a "Show and Tell" table where members can bring items they wish to show and talk about (2-3 minutes or less). We'll also have tables for those who want to bring items to sell (or give away) in the back of the room.

Topics this year so far include Drop-in Sound Board for a GP-38, Track Power, Simple Bridge Designs, and Sounds for your Railroad. We have a mix of new and previous presenters, but still need 1 more presentation as only 6 of the 7 clinics have been filled. If you need a little inspiration, our past clinics are posted on the club's website and I can assist with putting your presentation together. So document that winter build and share your skills/ideas with your fellow club members. Directions and a map will be in the February newsletter along with the final presentation schedule. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Auburn on the 18th of February! Please contact me at phillipsmk@comcast.net or 253-278-6907 to let me know your topic!

## Volunteers Take Up Track

Article and photo provided by Pete Comley

As club members have heard, a large 7 ½" gauge garden railway in Lakewood is being pulled up and will be relocated in the upcoming Mount Rainier Scenic Railroad museum near Elbe. Several of us have volunteered to help lift the old track. As there is some 6000 ft. to pull up, the work is being organized over several weekends, typically lifting 600 ft. per session.

On a bright and sunny Oct 28 members Terry Lattin, Alex Osenbach, Dawn Brightwell and Pete Comley helped out with a few other people. We soon organized ourselves into specialist workgroups, and figured out the best way to remove the rails from the ties. As the track has been down over 30 years all the joiners and screws were rusted solid, and so the method used was to knock the ties off the rail and then cut through the joiners. At a later time the ends will be trimmed further and holes for new joiners drilled prior to putting new recycled milk bottle plastic ties on. (Ed. Note: On another weekend club members Barry DiGuilio and Leo Arndt also helped take up some track.)



Pete and Dawn, hammers in hand, synchronize blows to the tie which usually popped off in one blow. In the background Terry with the Sawzall prepares to cut through a joiner, while Alex lifts track sections to make our jobs easier.

## Bismark and Hilldale Railroad Snow Plow Days

Article and photos by Ed Mattison

During some of our colder wetter days I decided to write up some stories about the people and equipment on my garden railroad. This first one is about plowing snow on the Bismark & Hilldale Railroad even though snow is not a common occurrence on the railroad.

At one time a plow was fitted on the front of one of the 4-4-0's. Later it was installed on a 2-6-0. This plow lasted until one February when it hit a rock hidden in a snow drift across the tracks. As the plow was damaged beyond repair,

the Tahoma Lumber Company loaned a plow to the Bismark & Hilldale Railroad to finish plowing the line.

An old gondola with a plow mounted to it was purchased from the Great Northern Railway and has been used ever since. This frees up the locomotive that had a plow attached.

Currently, the Bismark & Hilldale Railroad hires the Tahoma Lumber Company to plow the line. The geared locomotives have more power at slow speeds. This seems to do a better job at removing the snow. It also gives the Tahoma Lumber Company crews something to do when the camps close in the winter.





## **Untimely Maintenance Tip**

By Bill Thurston

With the cooler weather and slower plant growth I can take some time off from railroad right-of-way maintenance chores to share a tip that has made those chores a little easier for me. My layout is mostly at ground level and I have ground cover and other plants that can quickly spread over the railroad track. The plants cause derailments, decoupling and other assorted ills.

Hand pruning and trimming is very time consuming and my gas powered weed whacker is too big for cutting plants near or on the track. When Dremel came out with their battery powered rotary tool, I saw a possible use they don't mention in their literature: a mini-weed whacker.

The first Dremel battery powered model I bought is rated at 10.8 volts and works, but seems to quickly run out of charge. Model 8220 rated at 12 volts that I now use has more power and holds a charge much longer.

About 6 inches of 60 # fishing line and 1500 rpm works well for me. The mini-weed whacker is probably not of much use this time of the year, but you may want to give it a try next spring when plants start taking over again.



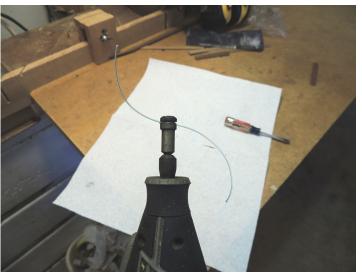
After just a few days of no train running, plants start to take over.



The mini-weed whacker cleans up the right-of way in short order.



Dremel Model 8220 with a mandrel from a Harbor Freight rotary tool accessories pack. The mandrel is larger in diameter than the standard Dremel mandrel and provides a better holding surface for the 60# fishing line I found in my tackle box.



Use a simple overhand knot (shown in the top photo) to tie the line around the spindle screw, tighten the screw down, and you are ready for trimming.

## Second and Final Notice - The Annual Christmas Party

By the Christmas party elves/hosts Barbara and Glenn Shadduck

Ten things to know about the annual Christmas party:

- 1. This is the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood Elks!!
- 2. A map to the tenth annual Christmas party is on page 10.
- 3. The date of the tenth annual Christmas party is Saturday, December 17, 2017.
- 4. The time of the tenth annual Christmas party is 12:00 noon at the Lynnwood elks. Set up will be at 11:00 am. If you can help, just show up at 11:00--with lots of helping hands we should be able to set up in an hour. Your help is appreciated---- with moving tables, decorating, setting out the auction items, making coffee, etc.
- 5. There will be a potluck at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood elks. Norm as president will follow the tradition of providing the baked ham for the buffet. It is up to all the club members to provide the rest of the food. The Christmas party is traditionally well attended, so bring plenty of side dishes and treats. Shadducks will provide coffee, tea, cold water, hot cider. If you want anything else, bring your own.
- 6. There will be an auction at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Elks. Last year we did an amazing job funding our club's extra projects. Success of the auction depends on generous donations (both train and non-train items that are *new or very gently* used). Just bring your items with you to the party and put them on display. An attachment to the email sending you this newsletter will also be a bid sheet that you can print (copy if you need more). You can fill it in at home and bring it ready to go—this is a big help as we set up things. A successful auction also requires lots of **audience participation** in the form of healthy bidding. Bring your checkbook or cash as Dwight is our money man and he only deals with cash or checks.
- 7. There will be a raffle at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood elks. Our thanks to President Norm who is donating the raffle basket this year.
- 8. There will be gift exchange at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood elks. Bring a gift, take a gift. When you place a wrapped gift under the tree, your name will be put in Santa's hat. You get to come up and pick up a gift when your name is drawn. And you get to draw the next name. Gift items with a train theme are always fun. Price range of \$10 to \$20 is suggested.
- 9. Holiday dress is encouraged at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood elks. Whatever puts you in a festive mood!!: "ugly" sweaters to "sparkly" are encouraged. You don't have to wear a tie unless you have just the perfect holiday tie. Holiday hats are a great idea. Just be comfortable and have fun.
- 10. There will be a good time to be had by all at the tenth annual Christmas party at the Lynnwood elks!!!! Encourage some of the members we don't see as often as we would like to join us. (offer to carpool?)
  We look forward to seeing everyone. This is a special holiday event for our club!!

Cheers

## Directions to the Christmas Party

- Going North on I 5Take exit 181A
- At light turn left onto 44 Ave W
- Travel north to 196 St SW
- Turn left onto 196 heading west
- Travel 1.4 miles to Lynnwood Elks
- Look for the building on the left.

## Going South on I 5

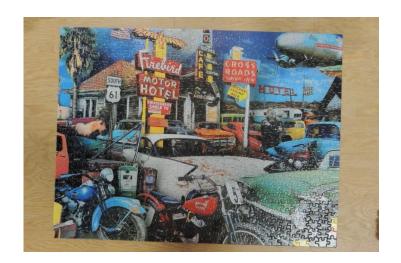
- Take exit 181 to the right and merge onto 196 St SW
- Continue west on 196 St SW for 1.6 miles to Lynnwood Elks.
- Look for the building on the left.

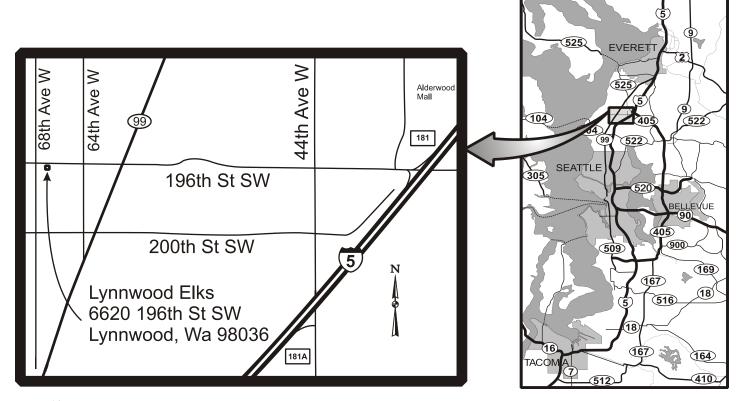
## Exiting from I 405 and onto I 5 South

- Avoid north bound lanes.
- Move to the to right hand lane as you approach I 5 South.
- Take exit marked I 5 South, Seattle, Lynnwood
- Merge onto the entrance ramp for I 5
- Take exit 181 and merge onto 196 St SW
- Continue west on 196 St SW for 1.6 miles to Lynnwood Elks
- Look for building on the left.



Patty Johnson, Beth MacLaren, and Bud Harrington work on a detailed puzzle. They complete the effort (below) as the train show ends. Photos By Bill Thurston.





## 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

Kurt Sykes is hosting a monthly wind up, or clockwork, train meet at his house on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00pm until dark. Bring your vintage windups and have fun! Kurt at 253-941-4218 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 be put on the modules email contact list.

## **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 contact information is above)				
Date	Time	Event	Place	Remarks
Dec 3		Wind Up	Sykes', Federal Way	
Dec 6	9 AM	South Sound Breakfast	Knapp's Restaurant, Tacoma	2707 N Proctor St.
Dec 10		Steam up	Johnson's, Federal Way	
Dec 17	Noon to 4 PM	Club Christmas party	Lynnwood Elks Club	Come early and help set up. Details on page 9.
Dec 26		Steam up	Comley's, Bonnie Lake	
Jan 1		Steam up	Scott's Fox Island	
Jan 20	Noon	World's Greatest Hobby Show	Puyallup Fairgrounds	Modules setup at noon
Jan 21 -22		World's Greatest Hobby Show	Puyallup Fairgrounds	Run trains
Feb 18		Clinics	Auburn	See page 6.
Feb 24	10 AM	Monroe train show	Monroe	Module setup at 10 AM
Feb 25 -26		Monroe train show	Monroe	Run trains

Dues are due. It is that time again. The cost is \$36.00 for 2017 and must be paid before the beginning of the annual business meeting. You can pay at the business meeting, but it would be helpful to our membership chairman, Brent Stuvland, to send him a check well before March 18. Make the check out to PSGRS and send to:

Brent Stuvland

POB 357

Bothell, WA 98041



Return Address: Bill Thurston 2610 71st Ave CT NW Gig Harbor, WA 98335

## **Puget Sound Garden Railway Society**

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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 email or to the above address.

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

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Jerry Madsen......253 307 9055
geraldmadsen@comcast.net

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

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