

The PNW Chapter of the ETE has had a busy Winter Quarter, per usual! To start with, our chapter had an election in early November, as both Chris Woodruff and Magnus Christerson elected (pun intended) to step down from their roles. Jacob Abrisz was elected as the new Chapter President and J.R. Edmiston, Brian Silcox, and Hans Schiefer were elected to share the burden of Modular Group Chair. Thom Keyes remains Secretary and Peter Lofgren remains Treasurer.

The Seattle Children's Hospital club did have a pause for the holiday season but remains active! On 9<sup>th</sup> December, we gave a Märklin Start-Up Haribo set to one of our regular visitors and phased in two new sets, the Glacier Express and Green BR 212 freight sets. Both are working well but the Glacier Express set is a cut above! Additionally, we had special guests in the form of the Seattle Seahawks' Rashid Shaheed, Blitz, and two Seahawks Dancers, who did take time to play with some of the kids at the trainsets! On 27<sup>th</sup> January, turnout was limited due to an increase in the viral load at the hospital restricting visitation to the playroom, but we still had a fair turnout with a very invested group of visitors, per usual! We're currently considering including other NMRA members in the SCH trainclub; more details on the vetting requirements to come should we move forward with that.

Turning to our modular, it's been a season of many improvements so far! Turnout for our modular setup has been excellent this season, averaging about twenty members per show. **Chehalis** saw the process of our module carts have being rearranged, with more work on that to come. That show also saw the introduction of two new club-owned modules, our new Brewery loop section and our staging modules. Both modules were a team effort but championed by Alan Fischer and J.R. Edmiston respectively. **Tacoma** was once again incredibly successful for our club and we're looking to negotiate for more space next year if possible. Our trains performed well, and the introduction of the Central Station 3 and its wireless in-browser phone control was a game-changer in terms of our block capacity. Despite some hiccups, setup and teardown went well and is continuing to improve with the new rack arrangement. Additionally, Troy Kirby conducted an interview of several of our club members and came referred from WAHIS, which we look forward to seeing the finished version of soon. Importantly, our Zebra raffle continued to be wildly popular with audiences and was processed in record time this year! **Ridgefield** continued our positive trend of excellent attendance both days. Teardown was accomplished with fewer folks than usual, but extra effort was made to improve our packing methods, which certainly paid off at **Puyallup**! The initial "error count" of track setup was greatly reduced due to Howard Goff's careful eye at Ridgefield. Attendance was a little lighter on Sunday but still respectable. Teardown was down to about an hour and a half, and at this rate we may be down to less than an hour by next year! Extra thanks to J.R. Edmiston and Dave Davis in that regard. We also took the opportunity to discuss the retirement and replacement of one of the member owned modules and the construction of a new Cinque-Terre themed corner module, experimenting with new construction styles for the latter!

All said, we're very optimistic and looking forward to the remainder of the modular season. We're likewise casting our gaze forward to next year for the 2027 NMRA convention, and gearing up to have a strong presence for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of railroads in the US!

Well wishes,

-Jacob A. Abrisz

President, European Train Enthusiasts Pacific Northwest Chapter