



THE GOAT

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PNR 5th Division on *Facebook*

At the PNR 5th Division Annual Meeting that was held in Millwood (WA) in April, the members present were asked what they would like to see in *The Goat*. As the new editor of this publication, I was very interested in the response. A couple of members stated that they would like more in the way of **regional news** that would be of interest to PNR members. Another mentioned coverage of **current events**. Still another said that articles that reflect on **railroad history** as it pertains to our region would be of interest.

I think that these are very good ideas and, as your new editor, I will try to follow up in future editions of *The Goat*. However, I think that many current events might be old news by the time that the next regular edition of the newsletter is published. Also, some articles may be so brief that they may not warrant a feature. And, sometimes a picture is worth, as they say, a thousand words.

For these and other reasons, I have launched a page on *Facebook* on which we can all post current events, railroad related news and links to internet sites that may be of interest. The page has been set up and can be seen at https://www.facebook.com/NmraPnr5thDivision?ref=tn_tnmn. It is new and I have posted only a couple of items. I do have high hopes that you will find it and add to it over time.

In order for you to receive a notice of new postings on our page, you must have a *Facebook* account. This may cause concern for some of you because of privacy or other "dark alley" stories about social media sites. While I do not endorse *Facebook* or any other of the many social media sites, I have been using it for several years without any obvious ill-effects. You can register a personal page by going to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions for creating an account. Keep these things in mind:

- There is no charge for creating and maintaining your *Facebook* account,
- You can enter as much or as little information about yourself as you wish,
- You can use a nickname to preserve your personal identity,
- You can choose to "Like" as many or as few *Facebook* pages as you want,
- You can "Unlike" pages at any time,
- You can hide any unwanted posting sources from your page, and
- You don't ever need to post anything on your page to maintain your account.

Once you have your account set up, you can click "Like" on the NMRA PNR 5th Division's page. Having done so, you should see what I post on the PNR 5th Division page. If you go to the PNR 5th Division's page, you can comment on postings or post your own message *ó but only if you have set up a Facebook account*. I hope that this might be one more way for members in our Division to communicate with each other and let others know what is going on. It may even attract new members, who knows?

Subdivision Reports

If you live in one of the following PNR 5th Division's unofficial "Subdivisions," I would like to hear from you.

- Western Montana
- Northern Idaho
- Northeast Oregon
- Eastern Washington
- Central Washington

If you have any news and/or pictures to share about any of a number of topics that I can publish in *The Goat* or on our new *Facebook* page, please send them to me at abcja6730@yahoo.com. I can use:

- Club events and progress reports
- Pictures of home layouts
- Modeling ideas and tips
- Experience with modeling products or tools
- Prototype pictures that you have taken – especially if they are recent
- Current or historical information about railroads in your locality
- Passing of fellow modelers, club members, railroad friends who are PNR members

If you have looked at the most recent edition of *The Goat*, you may have noticed that there are or will be departments for classifieds and a "mailbag" (letters to the editor). Please contribute to those as well.

As your newsletter editor, I may take some editorial license with submissions to make sure that they fit the theme and size of the newsletter. Also, I would like to attribute submissions to each contributor unless you specifically request to have your name withheld.

I want this newsletter to belong to everyone in our organization so, please, contact me with your ideas, text, pictures and ideas. Many thanks!

Alan Ashton
Editor

THE GOAT is an official publication of the 5th Division of the Pacific Northwest Region, National Model Railroad Association. *The Goat* is published quarterly with at least one paper issue per year – generally with ballots. Deadlines for material input are: March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15. Publication dates are April 5, July 5, October 5, and January 5. Publication is the date *The Goat* is available on the PNR website. You may refer to the PNR website on the publication date to view, download and print *The Goat*. Special events may alter this timing. Extra issues may be published outside of the current timetable and will be identified as such. **All material and correspondence related to *The Goat* should be forwarded to the Editor.** Alan Ashton (abcja6730@yahoo.com)

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