

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: April 2021
ITEM: President's Report
FROM: Greg Elems

The time to address the balloon track has arrived. After a thorough inspection, several wide gauge spots were found. The outside rail has several wear sections at the apex of the balloon. Ties are deteriorating to the point that it has been decided to replace them en-mass. Last year, I figured 75+ ties would need to be replaced, but we weren't able to do that. The last week of March a contractor inspected the balloon to give us an estimate of work ahead of us and materials needed. What we found was 300 ties need to be replaced, along with several sections of the outside rail. Our tie supply is nowhere adequate for the need to be replaced. I asked for a bid, and received one: a bid of \$33,000 for the track from the sewer crossing to the interchange switch has been received. Understand that ties are \$45 each as seconds and new ties reach \$65 to \$70 each. We'll be using seconds. We have the replacement rail for the sections of the outside balloon track. This price includes shipping of materials, renting of equipment to do the work and per diem for the crew of three for 6 days. If we are to open July 1st with cabooses rides and start RAL operations, the track work needs to be done. At the moment, there is a red flag between the rails past the Charlie Gate and since all of our operating locomotives are on the east side of the flag it is the only flag displayed.



On the positive side, this will give us a solid and safe railroad to run the WP 165 when that time comes.

Plans are being discussed about putting one of the vista flats back in service. We will be working on it outside of the diesel shop on the west end. Wood work will need to be done. Anyone who would like to help, this project will starting soon and we will be happy to have your help. My cell phone number is (775) 240-0738 if you want more information and such.

I'm in the process of contacting Surestay Plus Hotel by Best Western in Reno for a possible location for the Western Pacific Historical Convention. The airport is close by and the Amtrak station is convenient also. Right now, we are looking at the 3rd or 4th weekend in September. It has a sufficient sized banquet room and break out rooms available for clinics. More details to follow. Check the web page for details and the calendar for the dates.