

Membership Corner

By Kerry Cochran, Membership Services

Change of Address

When a FRRS member fails to inform the FRRS of a change of address their Train Sheet is returned to the FRRS by the Post Office. The Train Sheet is sent out "bulk rate" which is third class and the post office will not forward it even if you have a change of address on file with the post office. The FRRS has on file with the post office a request for a new address if there is one on file.

The new address is listed on the returned Train Sheet. However there is a fee of 60 cents for each returned Train Sheet. So two things happen when you fail to notify the FRRS of your change of address, it costs the FRRS money and delays your publications by weeks or even months.

The post office is very slow to return them. Often a second Train Sheet has gone out before the first one comes back. The FRRS does NOT re-mail the Train Sheet if it is returned. So, we are requesting that all members notify the FRRS of a change of address at least one month in advance.

The only person who can change an address is membership services. Membership services maintain the master computer file and all changes are made on it and copied to other FRRS files and documents. Since the membership services person lives some 250 miles from the FRRS, he does not pick up mail every week and needs some lead time to make the change before the person actually moves. It is very helpful if the change of address includes the effective date of the change. The post office supplies change of address cards but just a note with your name, membership number, old address and new address works just as well.

You can mail it to the FRRS or drop it off at the gift shop. Mark it Attention: Membership Services. A few minutes of time will save money, make sure you get your Train Sheet timely and result in less work for the staff who have to process the returned Train Sheets.

Another item, There is usually at least one Train Sheet every month returned as "temporarily away" since the post office does not hold third class mail. We also have to pay 60 cents for these. These Train Sheet's are NOT re-mailed because we have no idea when the person is returning. They could well be sent back more than one time by the post office.

Renewals/Membership Cards

The FRRS has been experiencing some very serious problems with mail delivery by the post office. It is certain that sometime mid-year at least one bundle of mail containing renewals were lost by the post office and never found.

It appears there has been some other missing mail. Therefore if you do not receive your new membership cards within six to eight weeks of paying your dues please contact the membership services. If it has been over eight weeks there is a definite problem. If you get a "Don't Derail reminder", yet have paid your dues, call immediately. Do not assume the dues and the notice crossed in the mail. Please, when you call make sure you note the date and who you talked to, as sometimes the telephone messages

do not get to the membership person in a timely manner. You may also call the membership person directly at (650) 952-7127, or use E-mail, sending your request to KC6KNT@Compuserve.com.

It is important we know quickly that there is a problem so we can attempt to resolve it. Also if you fail to receive a dues notice call and we will send a duplicate or you may just mail your dues to the FRRS. If you mail in regular envelope please mark "dues" on the outside so it is routed to the right person. And if you know your membership number please write it on your check or letter.

If dues are not received within 90 days after we send the "Don't Derail reminder" the member is dropped. For any other membership problems or questions such as missing cards for family members please contact Membership services.

In addition if you know of any new member who has joined and has not received their membership card within eight weeks of joining please have them contact us immediately so the paper work can be located and processed.

CMO Report

By Hank Stiles

This report has been absent from The Train Sheet for a while due to the fact that I have been very busy and the lack of much going on in the winter season. This, as you all know is the sleepy time at the museum. After the Santa trains most of us that are at Portola or there a lot, kind of hole up for the winter and dream of warmer days to come with spring. It may take a while this year as the snow is deep so far this winter.

Some progress is however being made, I have found a source, after much searching, for the 12 1/2 x 1/4 inch silicone o-rings to fit the oil cooler on our Fairbanks Morris switcher. The company that made the oil cooler merged with another company and at this point they are not aware that they even made that oil cooler, all this in only 48 years. It is hard to work when the temperature is so low. We don't have the where with all to heat the shop building, it is just a steel building and the "R" value of corrugated steel being what it is puts it out of our league.

The Fairbanks Morris is the preferred locomotive for winter and acting president Andy Anderson asked me to repair it so we could use it. So it moved to the top of the list. Anyone that would like to help with this project please call me.

Locomotive Maintenance Clinics will start again this April, so please come up and help. They will be the first full weekend of each month April through October again this year. After we get the routine maintenance done, if you would like to see something repaired or running please get in touch with me and we will put together a project plan and if feasible we will make it happen. Some restrictions apply, of course, like money, shop space and man/woman power.

I would like to see many of you at the museum this year, so please come up and take a look at your museum.

I hope all of you had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May it be better than the last.