

Work Weekend Report - Oct. 12-13

By Gail McClure
WP Hospital Project Coordinator

This hastily organized work weekend dawned cold and clear. The targets for the day were two-fold; track work including tie, joint bar and gauge bar replacement as well as tamping ballast and final clean up of the upper floor of the Portola Western Pacific Hospital property.

Two of our teen-aged members rounded up a volunteer group to assist with this work. Aaron and Eric McClure participate in the JROTC program at Proctor R. Hug High School in Reno, Nevada. These highly motivated young people selected the Portola Railroad Museum Clean up for their Service Learning Project, designed to benefit a not-for-profit organization through volunteerism and service.

Due to the hard work of these cadets, the hospital clean up is nearly complete. With this clearing of debris came another wonderful surprise. Another of our motivated volunteers, Dan O'Connor, is a structural engineer and came up to inspect the structural integrity of the building and measure for scale drawings. He is currently in the process of compiling a preliminary structural analysis of the building to determine the feasibility of restoration/adaptive re-use. He brought his friend and neighbor, Jim Deihl, along to assist.

The track crews, again comprised mainly of our ROTC volunteers, were able to replace 34 ties, 12 joint bars, six gauge bars and repaired the bolts on four frogs and five switches. Our ballast tamper was also used to tamp approximately 500' of track.

At the end of our Saturday workday, we were treated to a wonderful barbeque dinner cooked up by Jan Breitwieser. Our volunteers then enjoyed touring the facility and a motorcar ride.

On behalf of myself and Rod McClure, Roadmaster we would like to recognize the "Highly Motivated, Truly Dedicated, Rompin', Stompin'" Hug Hawks Battalion volunteers who gave up their Saturday (and some their Sunday as well) to benefit the FRRS and PRM. It was truly a pleasure to spend time working side by side with them and we hope they will come back to assist us in the future:

Major Michael Blackburn	Evan Blancett
Jessica De Laguna	Aaron McClure
Robert Rigler	Joseph Salazar
Eric McClure	Katilyn Monnier
Amber Myrick	David Osborn
Kasidi Wells	Daniel Golightly
Race Kennedy	Dennis Moran
Jose Morales	Andres Preciado
Bryan Stoen	Ricky Bidleman
Ashley Boudreau	Ray Laskowski
Shawn White	Michael Shullo
Roy Taylor	Jason Wolf.

The following "regulars" also volunteered their time and we thank them as well:

Frank Brehm	Eugene Vicknair
Eric Stephens	Alan Hirasawa
Greg Elems	Steve Habeck
Sara Eidman	John Walker.

Operating Department 2002 in Review

By Kerry Cochran
Superintendent of Operations

First off I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Operating Department for your help with the 2002 Operating Season.

There were many more members who showed up and worked around the museum. Without all the help I am sure we would not have had such a successful operating season.

I appreciate your support in the Operating Department this year and hope that you will consider returning and volunteering for next year's season.

Thanks goes to Yardmaster Steve Habeck for heading up Rail Fan Photographer Day, and all the other crew members that made it work.

Railroad Days was another big weekend that was handled by members of the Operating Department, Thank You.

I would like to thank the three supervisors, Pat Brimmer, Paul Finnegan and Don Nelson, the Yardmaster, Steve Habeck and the Roadmaster Rod McClure who supervise the crew when I am not present at the museum. Without their help and the help of all the other museum volunteers, we would not be able to run the caboos on the weekends.

There are many other volunteers who help the Operating Department out during the year and without their help we just would not be able to handle all that need to be done. THANKS to everyone.

Again thanks for the help, and should you have any questions on the Operating Department please contact me. Email KC6KNT@Compuserve.com, Home telephone (650) 952-7127, Fax (650) 588-5490 or you can write me at 649 5th Ave. San Bruno, Ca. 94066-4517.

Promotions during 2002;

Qualified Brakeman - Chris Jozwiak, Ed Powell, Charlie Spikes.

Qualified Conductor - Bob Carr, Jeanne Collins, Loren Ross.

Qualified Fireman - Tom Andrews, Lew Barnard.

Qualified Passenger Engineer - Don Nelson.

Qualified RAL Engineer - Lew Barnard, Loren Ross.

Student Positions during 2002;

Student Brakeman - Paul Disney, Sara Eidman, David Haggard, Sam Herschbein, Jerry Hoover, Aaron McClure, Eric McClure, Chris Peak, Charlie Walls.

Student RAL Engineer - Terry Decottignies, Alan Hirasawa.

Sure hope I did not miss anyone.

All the Operating Department Crew members work very hard through the year in volunteering their time to the museum. The time they spend working on the crew in their student positions or qualified positions helps us run the trains during the weekends.

Please watch the Trainsheet for more information on Crew Training Days in early 2003.

The dates for the 2003 training should be by May 3rd and 4th, 2003 to be held at the museum, starting at 10 AM each day, lasting until about 4 PM.

Should you have any question, please be sure to contact me.