

(Convention...continued from front cover)

California Zephyr and the other looking at the "Zephyrette" Rail Diesel Cars.

- A showing of Virgil Staff Films from the FRRS archives focusing on the California Zephyr

Janet Dawson and Jeff Asay also held book signings at the WPRM Museum Store table. Janet's Zephyr mysteries and Jeff's book "*The Iron Feather*" were big sellers, along with a special 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary CZ publication reprinting material from long out of print *Headlights 17* and *18*. This was put together in time for the convention by Paul Finnegan and the archives department volunteers with special thanks to Frank Brehm.

Several of the modeling and photography presentations also paid homage to the Western Pacific, including Neil Fernbaugh, whose Hands-On Weathering clinic featured photos of WP prototypes for inspiration. The modeling contest featured some amazing work that showcased the breadth of both subject matter and capability found in the modeling world. There were many vendors on hand as well, in addition to the WP Museum Store, sharing a large hall with three model layouts that were on hand for display.

The closing banquet featured great food, the door prize raffle and an entertaining keynote speech by Charlie Getz, outgoing NMRA President. Door prizes were donated by:

- Bowser
- Kadee Quality Products
- Kalmbach Publishing
- White River Publications
- Catenary Video
- WPRM Museum Store
- Marc Desobeau, Railroad Artist
- Bob's Trains and Toys
- David Adams
- Jere Ingram

Even a month later, many positive comments about the convention itself, the quality of programs and the special guests are still being received. Everyone felt that the blending of PCR

and WP focus worked well and both groups complemented each other, a fact also shown in the high number of attendees who hold joint membership in both organizations. At final count, about 265 people registered to attend.

I want to thank Steve and Mary Habeck, Greg Elems, Kerry Cochran, Scott McAllister, Jim Collins, Cathy Von Ibsch, Paul Finnegan, Frank Brehm and all the PCR folks who helped make the convention happen. Thanks to Eric McKay for good food and moral support. And huge thanks to all the presenters! Everyone did fantastic jobs on their shows.

I have decided that this will be the final convention I coordinate as there are several other projects on the horizon that will demand my attention, so let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped me with planning and execution of the WP conventions since 2013.

- 2013 - Sacramento, CA (with co-coordinator Scott McAllister)
- 2014 - Fairfield, CA
- 2015 - Elko, NV
- 2016 - Modesto, CA – joint with PCR-NMRA
- 2017 - Reno, NV
- 2018 - Salt Lake City, UT
- 2019 - Sacramento, CA – joint with PCR-NMRA

There are photos and other material from the 2019 convention on the society website at [www.WPLives.org/news\\_items/2019\\_Convention\\_News.html](http://www.WPLives.org/news_items/2019_Convention_News.html).

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