

**Feather River Rail Society
Annual Membership Meeting
June 7, 2003
7:00 p.m.
The Diesel Shop, Portola Railroad Museum
Portola, California**

President Rod McClure called the meeting to order at 8:36 p.m. after dinner and dessert. The following directors were present:

Kerry Cochran
Hank Stiles

Norm Holmes
Eugene Vicknair

Gail McClure

Members present:

Julie Anderson
Sam Dale
David Epling
Linda Monger
Jack Palmer
Jay Sarno

Sue Cooper
Rick Edwards
Deborah Epling
Wayne Monger
Ed Powell
Ed Wagner

Clifford Cox
Greg Elems
Dave Foster
Anne Neves
Kenneth Roller
John Spencer Walker

Mike Cox
Glada Elems
Doug Morgan
Vic Neves
Loren Ross

President's Report to the Membership

President McClure began the meeting by thanking Gail McClure for the wonderful Dinner she created, with a large round of applause from the group. He continued the meeting with discussion of the elections process this year. He advised the membership of the Board's decision to redo the ballot process only. He further advised the membership that changes will be forthcoming to the policy to prevent a repeat of the delays in getting the ballots out to the membership in the future.

He spoke to the membership regarding the financial position of the Society and stated that overall, we are doing well, with our finances in approximately the same shape as last year. He reported to the membership that we have received a number of large donations including a donation from Ed Wagner in memory of his brother, Joe, and an estate settlement pending. Ed Wagner gave a short synopsis of why he chose the Society to commemorate his brother, and spoke of his confidence in the Society's President, our new Museum Manager, and the general direction the Society and Museum appear to be headed.

President McClure also touched on on-going fundraising efforts and thanked the membership for their support.

Equipment issues advised upon included the disposition of the 80 tonner, Quincy 4, Yreka Western 244, WP Camp Car and Magnolia tower. The Membership was advised that the Fairbanks-Morse locomotive is close to running again and our ever popular RAL program is up and running. Also discussed were ongoing clean up efforts on the property and track work including the replacement of over 150 ties, broken rail and frogs and reconstructed switches.

President McClure reported that the Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society Convention was a great success and pointed out to the membership that we had 8 of 9 Board members, as well as himself, present – a first in the history of the event. He reminded everyone present that the convention will be in Sparks, Nevada this year and recommended that anyone interested be sure to attend.

He also reported that our Archives continue to expand with one insulated car set up and another in the works. Future plans include a permanent, climate controlled archive in the WP Portola Hospital renovation.

President McClure addressed support of volunteer facilities including pending remodel of the Silver Debris to a crew lounge, and repair of damage done to the Shower Car. He reported that the only remaining code correction issues at this time are the deck and shower car plumbing, with plans progressing toward correction of both these issues. He encouraged members to volunteer to assist with a number of on going projects including track work, facilities/code corrections work and an upcoming fencing project at the Hospital property to reduce the number of break ins and liability.

He announced the hiring of our first full-time employee, John Walker, as Museum Manager. John's responsibilities will include the Gift Shop, RAL reservations, minor facilities work and handling general issues that volunteers generally don't have the time to do.

President McClure spoke to the restorations possibilities including painting of the silver caboose back to its UP yellow, overhaul of the 921 and restoration of the Troop Sleeper. He advised that the membership has been very vocal regarding their pleasure at seeing equipment painted and he would like to see that trend continue.

He was pleased to announce that the City of Portola is really pushing to see Railroad Days be a huge success this year and we are pleased to be included in the planning process of the event. He also reported that we have again been invited to participate in Truckee Railroad Days and are looking forward to it – last year the event made approximately \$12,000 for the Society.

President McClure reminded the membership to mark September 20, 2003 and plan to attend Railfan Photographer's Day at the Museum. He advised new events to include a BBQ, well known authors available to sign books and the return of Railroadiana to the event.

He encouraged the members to review the Master Plan drafted by Eugene Vicknair and accepted by the Board to see where the Society is headed in the future. He also advised of his concern for the need to do more advertising and to recognize our Volunteers as the key to our past and future success.

Operations Report

Superintendent of Operations, Kerry Cochran, thanked the volunteers of the Operating Department and RAL program. He advised that a Glad Hand Award recipient had been selected, but that since that individual was not present, the presentation of the award would be postponed until another date.

He also took this opportunity to encourage all of the membership to volunteer to assist with projects or Operations.

Zephyr Project Report

Project Manager, Eugene Vicknair, reported on the progress being made on the Silver Hostel. He advised they have recently contracted for the design of a special tool to work on the external fluting of the car and that he believes up to 95% of the interior parts for the car are readily available. He advised that he still needs approximately \$25,000 to complete the windows and frames in the car and encouraged anyone interested in donating to the project to contact him. He advised of a possible trade with the Golden Gate Railroad Museum for side skirts for the car and that he hopes to have the name boards on the car by the end of summer. He thanked Eric "Gozer" McClure for almost single-handedly dismantling the interior of the car to further the restoration.

Good of the Order

Ed Powell advised that he isolated one meter on the north east side and set up for a single duplex plug. When the time comes, it should be a simple matter of contacting the city for construction permitting to get power for lights and tools.

John Walker reported significant donations to the archives and that the first archive car is nearly full. Donations include much of the collection of Harold Safer, WP engineer, who recently passed away and an entire set of bound Model Railroader magazines beginning with issue #1. He reported we have also begun reproducing track charts and other books available for sale. There will also be reproductions of photographs and paintings available soon with more on the way.

Norm Holmes reported to the membership that Robert Flannery had passed away. Mr. Flannery was at one time President of the Western Pacific Railroad and the Union Pacific Railroad before his retirement. He was also a great benefactor to our Society and the Portola Railroad Museum.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Next meeting: TBD

Location TBD

Portola, CA

Respectively Submitted
Gail A. McClure