

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY AGENDA REPORT

DATE: January 2, 2006
FROM: David Epling
ITEM: New Business 5
SUBJECT: **Caboose Rental Packages**

Purpose: To develop policies and packages for on-site Caboose Rentals for special events.

Background: While researching information for another project, I came across a page for the Roaring Camp & Big Trees Website advertising a rental of a caboose for youth birthday parties. Further, when my wife and I decided to get married, we thought it would be neat to get married on a caboose. Our search for that led us to the CSR. A Google search returned 18,500 hits looking for Birthday Party caboose rentals.

Search Results: Most organizations of our type offer a caboose rental for birthday parties. The packages varied from on organization charging 25.00 for the caboose and 10.00 a person with no frills other than the caboose. The most extreme offer was 595.00 for 1 caboose, 22 people, the cake and a 17-mile ride. The median offer however was 125.00 to 150.00, included 2 hours for the caboose, either cake or 3 one topping pizzas.

Proposal: We can develop several different plans that can be tailored to an individual party needs, this can range from a basic vanilla 1 hour party, to a longer party that includes full party features and a train ride. I would recommend that we "part" out party sections. Such as:

- Base Caboose Rental.....35.00 hr
- Cake.....25.00
- 3 one topping Pizzas25.00
- Interior Decorations.....based on # of guests
- WPRRM T-Shirt for the Birthday Child.....Gift shop cost
- 2 Balloon trips, one at the beginning and one at the end.....40.00
- Cab rides.....5.00 pp

The above figures are just ideas based on what I found on the Internet. Over and above the birthday party, we could rent out a caboose for meetings and weddings. CSR charges 75.00 for a caboose rental for a wedding. That is not unreasonable. The stipulation there would be for the wedding party to provide their own officiator.

Conclusion: With the exception of 15 weekends in the summer and museum closure in the winter, our cabooses sit idle. With an aggressive marketing strategy, I believe that we can make our cabooses earn revenue during the museum hours of operation over and above their service on the caboose train.

ACTION: Discussion, Possible Action