

Director's Report

**Steve Habeck, Vice President
February 2014**

Thanks to quick action by my family and crew, the Santa Train decorations in the diner and baggage car were taken down and packaged up soon after the event, and the Elems boys got everything returned to storage in the party car. With the passenger cars cleaned out, and with the help of good weather, and the good luck of having Fritz and Poindexter available, we were able to set up the Museum and shop for the rest of the winter on Sunday, January 26th. We moved the 105 over to the east end of the shop on track 1, with the 165 and its tender in the middle of the shop, and the 1503 on the west end. This gets the steam engine inside for the rest of the winter, as promised, and also positions the 1503 under the shop air hoist for the radiator work needed. We also put the 917-D in the shop over the pit on track 2, so work can be done on it to restore it to service, and perform necessary routine maintenance, prior to the RAL season start. For now, the Plate and the baggage car are on track 3, alongside the shop. This displaced the caboose train to the east lead, which added some difficulty for me to take down and store the Santa Train lights, but I completed the entire process on February 3rd, again helped by mostly good weather.

Rod had us set up with Allied Washoe for fuel and oil purchases, and then they promptly got bought out by Flyers, out of Auburn, so the process of establishing an account had to start all over. Hopefully, progress is being made, since the fleet is running on fumes right now. We had to put the entire barrel of antifreeze mix into the 1100 to get some indication in the sight glass in order to run it for the switching, so we're out of that, too. Fortunately, there isn't much switching needed for the next couple of months (I hope). My time at the Museum has been limited by the demands of the extra board, and will now be impacted more by medical appointments for a potentially serious medical issue that is being investigated. You'll know more about it when I do.

We have not had any more issues with trespassers/break-ins since the problems last fall. I think having security lights on around the volunteers' area is having an effect.

We need to come up with a plan to get the gift shop mail to Gail on a more regular basis. There are things coming in that need her attention (the urgent stuff I try to deal with). Has it been considered to forward the phones to someone's house for the winter? The answering machines are always full and beeping when I drop off stuff at the Museum. There are requests for RAL bookings coming in, but the book is not there to schedule them (according to Poindexter). These things demand more volunteer time, which we're already short of. Food for thought.