

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE: March 15, 2014

FROM: Tom Carter – Director

This past Winter, Alicia and I placed the last of the N Scale museum models on EBay and got them all sold. Together with several pieces of HO stock, we netted approximately \$659.96 after EBay fees, shipping and a reimbursement for packing materials. We have some HO still left to list in the future. Right now, we have a balance of approximately \$750 in the PayPal account. This is due to a previous balance left in there of \$93. This money is available to transfer, as all outstanding EBay fee invoices are paid.

Fundraising and promotion is progressing on CCT 24, look for that to start going out on the net soon. I'm working to set up a donation link for it to accept online funds, and to date, we have approximately \$3900.00 available of the target goal of \$12K to finish the car, but we're fully funded for the first 2 phases of work. Phase 1 is commencing soon and I need volunteers to help with cleaning, cataloging and interior linoleum removal and interior paint. This weekend, I am photo documenting every square inch of the car inside and out as part of the restoration guide. Let me know if you would like a copy of the restoration guide book sent to you for this project or if you wish to help out in the restoration. It is my goal to have this car ready for exterior paint by the end of the season, sooner if I can get the help and raise the funds.

Alicia has for the most part recovered from her heart surgery and has had intraocular implants in her eyeballs, so she has gone from pretty much legally blind due to her diabetes, to 20/30 vision in each eye. She's anxious to get back to work up here and is driving me nuts chomping at the bit to get started on some new projects. One of these projects is to assemble a volunteer contact system, so you can pretty much bank on hearing from her throughout the season as I get her off my back and onto yours.

Another project I am working on is getting 2 truckloads of good relay ties donated by our friends at CCT railroad here in Stockton trucked up to the museum as well as a donated rubber tired ballast tamper, originally from Sacramento Northern. It'll need a little work to make it operable, but it'll tamp switches as well as straight rail and will be a valuable asset to our Maintenance of Way Department.

I will be starting another project to get Norm's little 25 ton FR&W Plymouth engine "Plinthed" (as they call it in England) on a display near the pedestrian crossing. Imagine a large pen set with model on your desk, but I stole the pen. Kind of like that. I am planning on getting it set in place this Summer and spruced up to make a very nice permanent monument to the history of the FRRS and its founding by Norm and Barbara Holmes.

The website is as current as I have information for, however, I am working with Gail to get the online store back up and running and we have an idea that we want to fly past another of our volunteers to have him take it over, as the coding for it is currently over my head. I have fielded several inquiries about building a new, "fresh" website; however, I will NOT be building another website for the museum on a "volunteer" or "time donated" basis. They just take too much work, however, of course, the Board is welcome to field quotes for getting a new site built professionally.

I am working behind the scenes on the 2015 “pin-up” calendar project and the models and photographers are anxious to get started, weather permitting. I have decided not to try to do a car show this year. I have too much on my plate with the above mentioned projects as is, as well as planning for a VERY large car show in Downtown Lodi this August that my parents car club hosts. I have been recruited to try to take the annual show from large to huge this year and have agreed to help the old farts do it due to the fact that it is a benefit for local charities. This year, I got my way and the show will be a benefit for CHILDREN’S charities, and have also listed the WPRM as an official event sponsor (at no monetary cost to the FRRS) for the work I’m doing. We will be listed on banners, literature, advertising, and if I have my way, the T-shirts, and will take what I learn from this year’s “Stuck in Lodi” car show and apply it to planning a future car show at the museum, but it won’t be this year.

We’ve heard from a few folks who are anxious to become new volunteers this year. That is fantastic news; however, we need all of the volunteers we can get. I would highly encourage EVERYONE to spread the word that we need all of the help we can get, and not *just* with train operations; we need broom pushers as much as we need train crews. Again, Alicia is going to try her best to coordinate volunteer activities, so steer any potential new volunteers her way, either through her email at alicia326@gmail.com, our phone at 209-475-0243 or Gail can get in contact with her too.

I’ve dropped the ball lately on the museum Blog and Facebook interactions with members and the public. I have been publicly flogged quite a bit about it lately and rightfully so by members, pissed off at the lack of information and news concerning the museum. I will do my best to keep the museum connected with everyone and vice versa in the near future. I can always use more input and contributions of photos and info of various happenings around the museum. Don’t be afraid to show off what you’ve been working on; it just may (hopefully) encourage others to pitch in and help. Speaking of contributions, the Train Sheet and Headlight are ALWAYS seeking articles and information, so help those folks out. People have been complaining about not getting them lately, but it doesn’t pay to put out a cover with blank pages, and these guys can’t put out the publications without contributions to put in them.

Timmy, Alicia and I spent this weekend working with Gail on Winterail and it was great seeing and spending time with several of our members and Board this past few days. It’s helped tremendously to get me out of the winter “blah” mode and refreshed, anxious to get back to work. I hope everyone had as nice a Christmas as Alicia and I did and are too, anxious to get back to work. We look forward to seeing everyone up at the museum regularly this season.

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