

## FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE: April 10, 2014

FROM: Tom Carter – Director

Recently, there have been concerns that I and several other members have expressed amongst several of us regarding the lack of a safety culture at the museum. Last month, in conferring with Rod, he decided to appoint me as the Safety Manager for the museum. Rail Safety is what I teach for a living and my Dad has a degree in Industrial Safety. The WP and later the UP around Stockton, where I spent a significant amount of time growing up, was all about safety. Safety as a culture was the number one requirement in keeping employed while working for the railroad. As we are now the remnants of the Western Pacific Railroad, in carrying on the traditions, spirit and physical presentation of the WP, this culture should have continued as if nothing had ever changed. Unfortunately, one of the most glaring changes that I had noticed right off the bat when I got involved several years ago was a detrimental lack of safety culture. A lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), lack of safety knowledge in several of our volunteers, blatant disregard, and even unsafe actions at times from some of our current railroad employed volunteers, has created a situation where I and others feel that we are living on borrowed time prior to a major accident and/or personal injury. This concerns me for our volunteers, guests and our equipment. One thing that I feel often gets overlooked is the fact that the vast majority of the equipment in our museum is there because it has outlived its usefulness to someone else. This means that it is often older, worn or requires special care and attention, and has a little higher potential to be dangerous. Lately though, a lot of this equipment has been damaged requiring costly repairs, and it is a miracle someone hasn't been seriously hurt. I am hoping to change all of that here and now.

I send this report, not only to notify you of this new position and the work that I will be carrying out to improve our safety culture, but to solicit your support and ideas to assist me in this new endeavor. I also hope that this serves as a little bit of a wakeup call of sorts for ALL of us and to keep in mind that "Safety is always doing the right thing...even when no one is looking". Safety is not something we should practice when our guests are watching us, or when others are working with us, it is a CULTURE.

Some of these changes are probably not going to be received well; fine. But please understand that I am doing this with YOUR safety and mine in mind and hope everyone will take a few minutes at the meeting to air concerns, give me some ideas that I may not see or have missed and assist in spreading this culture to the rest of our volunteers.

Tom Carter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Carter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Director, Safety Manager