

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – DIRECTOR REPORT

DATE: May 9, 2015

FROM: Tom Carter – Director

I recently had the pleasure of attending the 2015 Convention. I was reluctant to at first with all of the angst over the SOS crowd and their wild accusations. Just prior to leaving on Wednesday afternoon, as Alicia and I were making vinyl signage, I got a phone call from their attorney, FRRS member Keith Gillette. As I felt him calling me was grossly inappropriate, I told him not to call me anymore, and hung up. He countered Thursday morning, just as I was prepared to leave for Elko with a restraining order, on the basis “that I threatened him and his clients with threats of physical harm”. This is blatantly UN-TRUE. This set the tone for the trip, and I was NOT looking forward to it. Frankly, I was sick of having anything we said or did spin doctored against us. I am sick of the lies, the slander, and the needless waste of time, energy and money spent fighting this crap. The judge handed down a mutual restraining order, covering their little group and on our side myself, Rod and Eugene. We vowed to comply with the order and all went well. There were no issues or campaigning from anyone and everyone attending had a great time. The guests that we talked to were glad that the focus was indeed on WP history and not on campaigning or politicking. Mike Kessler as our guest speaker was a flash of brilliance and was a lot of fun to hang out and converse with, and the banquet guests thoroughly enjoyed his remembrances of the WP. We had a LOT of positive feedback from the guests, and I have decided to assist Eugene as Co-chair of 2016’s Convention in Lodi, California. We’re already working on it.

I was up last weekend working at the museum and sampling the Portola Hospital Emergency Room. (Migraine headaches) It was an extreme pleasure to see Bil Jackson return. I always liked working with Bil, his enthusiasm, work ethic and sense of humor personifies the “Willing People” of the WP. Loren Ross has been spending countless hours toiling away at various tasks to improve the museum and enhance the visitor experience, Burr and Alex Wilson returned to help, as has Ethan Doty and his girlfriend Ali. For an early season weekend, last weekend was a beehive of activity. I spent Sunday with Rod, David “Mother Fritz” Elems, Burr and Alex Wilson, Loren Ross, Bil Jackson and Ethan Doty tinkering on the 1503. We performed various miscellaneous tasks to bring UPY 1042 back to WP 1503, while Fritz and Alex changed out the Low Water button assembly, after which, I was able to see and hear 1503 run in person for the first time since I was a young kid. Everyone was in a great mood, laughing, joking, and enjoying each other’s company, and it felt like a regular day in a WP yard in the early 80’s. Despite all of the trouble we have had lately from the SOS group, people like these hard working volunteers, and the enthusiasm they showed this past weekend, have shown that this museum IS the WP and I am in for the long haul. This is OUR museum, and we’re not going ANYWHERE. The WP will continue to live and thrive.

Tom Carter

Director