

## FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY – EVENT REPORT

DATE: May, 2015

FROM: Director Vicknair

SUBJECT: **2015 Convention**

The convention went very well and we have been receiving a lot of compliments on it, much more than previous ones it seems. Many attendees felt that the presentation set was a very strong one and there was a lot of information that had not been previously known.

There was also a lot of praise for our guest speaker, Mike Kessler. He brought a collection of artifacts and memorabilia to exhibit, something I think future speakers should be encouraged to do as it added a lot to the proceedings.

The staff of the Red Lion was very responsive and helpful and any issues that cropped up were addressed quickly and professionally. The Museum Store and Brad Lomazzi's sales table seemed to do a nice business. I spoke to Brad and he was quite happy with how the weekend turned out and with his sales at the event.

We sold several photos as part of the archives test market, I will be printing those at my company and donating the costs for this initial test run. The raffle generated a little over \$400. We have a nice set of donated items including a lot of models from Bowser.

The trip to Ely and the Nevada Northern was also praised, but not as well attended as hoped. We had 4 people cancel in the days prior to the event who were signed up for both convention and Ely due to illness (either theirs or someone else's who needed the attendee's care).

In short, the Convention met its break even point, but the Ely trip did not. Attendance seems to have been impacted by the distance from California and the time of year. I heard from quite a number of folks who had personal / family events come up that preclude their attendance, often relating to kids graduating from college or high school. There is a billing issue with the charter company that I am still sorting out, so the accounting is in flux, but right now we are showing a small profit overall. I also have a couple of miswritten checks I am still chasing down as well. We did receive a \$1,000 donation toward the building fund. We also gained 3 new members at the convention and 8 in the registration period. The convention was front page news in the Elko paper and we garnered a lot of attention among east end WP and UP employees and fans in the Salt Lake City area.

Special thanks to Jeff Pearce of the Rio Grande Historical Society for helping promote the FRRS and the Convention in the Salt Lake area. We have forged a new organizational friendship there. Also thanks to Milton Brazzleton and Mike Kessler for their promotional efforts, and Rod McClure and Steve Habeck for donating the vehicles and time to do the Elko Yard Tours on Friday evening. Those also were a highlight according to the attendees who went on them.

Another benefit from the convention is that I was able to speak with Mark Bassett of the NNRy museum about a possible cooperative restoration project for the ex-Kennecott Alco RS

locomotives at Ely and Portola. We also have some opportunities for joint exhibits with NNRy and the Northeastern Nevada Museum resulting from discussions that occurred during my convention set-up.

We have received a special offer to do the 2016 Convention in Lodi, California. Tom Carter has volunteered to be co-chair for the event and we have already located three potential venues. I have 4 presentations already tentatively pledged. The 2016 Convention will be in early April. We hope to have details announced within 2 months.

I hope to provide at the June meeting not only a complete final accounting of the 2015 Convention but also reviews of the budgets for the 2013 and 2014 Conventions. I understand that myself and my co-chairs are being lambasted by a couple folks for supposedly wasting money on those conventions, so I want to have the facts in hand.