

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: August 2017
ITEM: NB 1 – Business Item
FROM: Eugene Vicknair

SWEETWOOD 100

We have several dates coming up in a few weeks relevant to our business car Western Pacific 106, the “Charles O. Sweetwood”. September 11 will be the 100th anniversary of the car entering service for the first time, August 31 would have been Charles Sweetwood’s 88th birthday and September 8th will mark 67 years since he was killed in action.

Patty Clawson and I have been working with representatives of the Red Cross, Charles’ family and others to put together a celebration of the Sweetwood, Charles himself and the legacy of the car. The goal of the event is to honor the history and generate public and media attention for it. Hopefully, this will act as a kick-off for generating funds and attention for the car. We are already exploring a comprehensive restoration grant and generating political interest in the car.

What is proposed is a rededication ceremony modeled after the ceremonies marking its entry into blood service held at Oakland and Elko in 1951. We would start at 1:30 PM on September 9th, Saturday, the same start time as the original Oakland ceremony. An adapted version of the scripts used in Oakland and Elko would be read by a Master of Ceremonies with comments from the Red Cross, FRRS President Steve Habeck and a member of the Sweetwood family.

The car would be positioned inside the Diesel Shop and available for walk through tours after the ceremony. Seating would be arranged to face the rear platform of the car. Speakers will either be on the platform or on the ground directly behind the car.

To prep for this event, Steve Habeck is assisting me in reproducing the Blood Procurement drumhead that the car wore. I am also working on reproducing the side banners and replacing the WESTERN PACIFIC, WP 106 and CHARLES O. SWEETWOOD lettering on the car sides. The goal is to have the car relettered and featuring its Red Cross side signs in time for the event.

I have also created some posters with input from Big Fish to promote the event. These can be seen at the end of this report. We will also be sending a postcard to our Life and Sustaining Members promoting the event.

For invited guests and FRRS members, the event will be free. It will also be open to any member of the public who has paid admission that day.

I am asking the Board to formally approve the event and a maximum expenditure of \$700 to cover the posters, car signage and drumhead, new historic information signs and support items for the event (such as refreshments).

Requested Action: Approve the event format and a \$700 expenditure from the Other Special Events line item – 54515.



American
Red Cross



Rededication of the
Western Pacific Military Blood Procurement Car
"CHARLES O. SWEETWOOD"

Come celebrate the 100th anniversary of the
construction of the "Railroad Car That Saves Lives"

Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola
Saturday, September 9, 2017 - 1:30 PM

700 Western Pacific Way, Portola, CA - 530.832.4131 - WPLives.org - Museum Admission Applies

Primary poster for the event



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Special poster to be available at the event

We are also receiving a custom order of pins commemorating the car and have received an order of buttons that show the drumhead artwork.

Pins:



Buttons:



Postcard for Life and Sustaining Members:

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more information:
Sweetwood.WPLives.org

