

Superintendent of Operations Report

-Loren Ross

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While the month of November has been busy for many folks at the museum, I haven't been able to participate in the planning and preparations for Santa Trains. My wife had to have an unplanned surgery, and all my time was taken up with that life event.

When I arrived at the museum on Dec. 2, for the first night of Santa Trains, I was amazed and impressed with the work that had been done to get things ready. The train was prepped, lights were EVERYWHERE, and there were only a few things left to accomplish to make things happen for our first nights event. I assisted Bil Jackson and Charlie Spikes with the few final chores, and then the crews and volunteers started to arrive. Although we were very short staffed, we did end up with enough volunteers to safely conduct train operations.

As with the Pumpkin Patch trains in October, our new light trailers were placed in the parking lot to help guide our visitors, and they worked extremely well. In the past, having rented only one unit, we had to place the unit right at the pedestrian crossing in order to light the parking lot centrally. This caused a lot of problems as the unit was noisy and made it difficult to talk to visitors, and the exhaust fumes could overwhelm us at times. Now that we have two units, we can space them out which gets them away from the pedestrian crossing, and lights up the entire parking lot, not just the central part of it. The night ended a success!

Now it's time to finish off this year's Santa Trains and begin preparations for planning next years training and schedules. I'm looking forward to next year!! Merry Christmas everyone!!