



# Feather River Rail Society

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Portola Railroad  
Museum

Preserving

*"The Feather River Route"*

P.O. Box 608  
Portola, California 96122  
(916) 832-4131

The museum is open daily year round from  
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM except Christmas Day.  
Entrance to the museum is free, however, we  
have a suggested donation of \$2.00.

*The Feather River Rail Society, a tax exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Portola Railroad Museum in Portola, California. The FRRS is not associated with and is not supported by the Union Pacific Railroad.*

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774  
Member of Tourist Railway Association Inc.

### Board of Directors

- Norman Holmes-----(916) 832-4737  
    Founder and General Manager
- Steve Habeck----- (916) 283-3396  
    President
- Wayne Monger- 1st Vice President (707) 426-5510
- Bruce Cooper--2nd Vice President (916) 832-1002
- Gordon Wollesen-----Treasurer (916) 832-5311
- Peter Langdon----- Secretary (916) 993-0440
- Hank Stiles----- (916) 363-8572
- Sue Cooper----- (916) 832-1002
- Vic Neves----- (510) 352-4373

### Headlight Publisher

John J. Ryczkowski  
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Reno, Nevada 89511  
(702) 853-5303

### Train Sheet

Ed Warren  
110 Date Palm Drive  
Sparks, Nevada 89436  
(702) 425-3610

### Membership

- Associate----- \$15.00
- Active----- \$30.00
- Family----- \$35.00
- Sustaining----- \$75.00
- Life----- \$300.00

These are the dues for one year. Life membership is a one-time payment. Associate members do NOT have a vote and do NOT receive the Headlight, all other members do. All memberships except Family are for ONE person only.

## Changing of the Guard

By action of the newly elected Board of Directors at the July 1994 Board of Directors meeting, a major change in FRRS leadership has been made. For the first time since the Feather River Rail Society was formed in 1983, Norman Holmes is not President of the Society. Steve Habeck was elected to the position of President.

In order to help ease the load Norm has been carrying, it was felt that it would be helpful to split the position of President and General Manager. Steve will preside at the monthly Board meetings and as prescribed by our By-Laws, "supervise and control the affairs of the corporation and the activities of its officers."

Steve is well qualified to guide our organization, having been a member since 1984. He has been active in the operating department, maintenance department and is our representative to the Pacific Limited Group. In that position, he is involved in decision making; he often is train manager and is responsible for recruiting our share of the passenger train car hosts. Steve now lives in the Spring Garden area and works in Quincy so he will have the time and be close enough to Portola to oversee the operation of the organization.

Norm will continue to be General Manager of the museum and will handle the day-to-day affairs of that facility. Norm is the founder of FRRS and through his leadership has brought our organization from eight members present at that first meeting in February, 1983, to its present 1,083. Membership extends to nearly every state and into six foreign countries, and to all people who are interested in Western Pacific and/or diesel locomotive preservation. The collection has grown from our first locomotive, WP 921D, to 38 units, the largest collection in the world. We also have the largest freight car collection representing nearly every type of freight car that the WP operated in the 1980's, including ten "plain Jane" 40 foot box cars.

Since our facility is open daily, it is necessary to have someone available to conduct the affairs of the museum. The business of the museum goes on and needs to be attended to in a timely fashion. Norm, with the assistance from his wife Barbara also is manager of the Gift Ship, a job in itself. It is hoped that with Steve as President, Norm will be able to reduce his work load from the 10-12 hours a day, seven days a week he has been working since his retirement in 1987.

## From the Desk of the President



This column begins a new era in the history of the Feather River Rail Society. One of the most difficult decisions I have ever had to make was whether or not to accept the nomination to become president of the FRRS. The support I've received so far from the new Board of Directors, the Department Heads, and the Membership assures me that I made the correct choice. My personal views of what I feel the Portola Railroad Museum should be striving for, and my concern about the workload Norm Holmes deals with on a daily basis, were also strong influences.

I'm calling on all the various department heads to get actively involved and make things happen. I encourage people to come up with an agenda, or list of feasible jobs/projects, supplies needed, and some instructions, and to submit it to the Board of Directors, in writing, for approval. Your approved written agendas then give the general manager and other daily museum staff a list of jobs that can be worked on with available help. The goal here is to have a good answer readily available when a volunteer asks, "What can I do?"

Although some changes have occurred, remember that titles may have changed, but the people behind those titles haven't changed, and some time for adjustment is needed. And, let's not forget whose vision and effort brought the FRRS, and the Portola Railroad Museum, into existence, and guided us through our first 10 years. Over 1,000 members continue to believe in what he started, and he still works 12-14 hours a day, 7 days a week for the FRRS as Museum General Manager, and a Society Director.

Thank you, Norman Holmes, for all you have done, and continue to do. Without your initiative, none of us would be here. I am honored to succeed you as president of the FRRS -- but you will always hold our most important title, "Founder."