

What Does It Take To Make Portola Run?

By Jim Gidley, Sr.

This article is a big thank you to all the people who have volunteered their time to make Portola run during the past year.

We have a small group of local people who live in the Portola area who spend 7 days a week to help our museum run in a professional way. We have another group of volunteers who come up on weekends traveling from as far away as Southern California to work on museum projects and to operate the trains for the public.

The operating season is over and we all say good-bye to each other as we leave. Many people, due to their schedule, have already left. I want to thank them and give them all a pat on the back for giving of their valuable time to keep our Portola museum running and making a profit. No one department is more important than the other.

I now want to thank Norman Holmes for his leadership in starting the museum and keeping it going for the last 10 years. Special thanks go to his wife Barbara who has done a great job in the gift shop.

Thanks go also to the past and present museum board of directors who have guided the museum in good and bad times.

Thanks go to Hap Manitt who is always there cleaning up, welcoming visitors and looking after things.

Thanks go to the Coopers -- Bruce and the Rental Program have put the museum in the black; and the working members really enjoy the food put out by Sue and her kitchen crew.

Gordy Wollesen, what can we say about him? He carries a big load as Facilities Manager and Superintendent of Operations -- jobs well done.

Hank Stiles gets a special thank you for heading up the Mechanical Department.

Thanks go to Steve Habeck and the members who worked on the Pacific Limited trips during the past years; we learned a lot and did a very professional job.

Thanks go to all those who helped with the Circle the Wagons event. Many hours were spent with lots and lots of people working.

In the Operating Department, we had 6 people qualify for new positions. The train crews put in approximately 2100 hours of train duty time. That is a lot of trips around the balloon track. A big thank you and pat on the back go to the following Operating Department crew members:

Dave Anderson	Mark French	Don Nelson
Julie Anderson	Jim Gidley, Sr.	Vic Neves
Dave Bergman	Phil Gosney	Dan Ogle
Don Borden	Steve Habeck	Jack Palmer
Brian Challenger	Larry Hanlon	John Ryczkowski
Eddie Chase	John Hittner	Hank Stiles
Don Clark	Norman Holmes	Ken Thompson
Kerry Cochran	Peter Langdon	Larry Van Horn
Bruce Cooper	Mardi Langdon	John Walker
Terry	Jim Ley	Ed Warren
Decottignies	Dave McClain	Jerry Williams
Skip Englert	Wayne Monger	Gordon Wollesen

Late this operating season, Jerry Williams qualified as a brakeman.

A big thank you goes to you all who have helped in any way, because without your help the museum could not operate.

Jim Gidley, Sr.
Trainmaster

Coming Out Party

In March or April of 1995 we are tentatively planning for a "Coming out party" for FP7 805A. Look for details in upcoming issues of the Train Sheet.

WP Fans/Modelers

FRRS Southern Regional Meet

By Meet Committee

The 5th Annual WP/FRRS Meet was held on October 8, 1994, with the "to be expected" success continuing. The turnout for the event was 82 participants through the door; 8 Participants joined the FRRS on site. The event started out with registration and the set-up of models for display. Contest entries were also logged in and set out for review. As in years past, over 250 models were displayed, the majority being in HO scale. N as well as O scale were also displayed. The FRRS gift shop was also set up and did a good amount of sales.

A last minute scheduling conflict prevented Art Lloyd from attending and presenting this year. We hope to recruit him for a future date.

The first of the clinics was Tim Dickinson and his "Prototype and Modeling of WP Beer Cars" presentation. Tim did an excellent job highlighting the prototype WP fleet of PC&F cars and how to accurately model them in HO scale using the Eel River car as a starting point. Thanks go to Eel River for the donation of cars for this project. Next was Norman Holmes talking about his "railfanning in the 1940's." The crowd enjoyed hearing about Norm's railfanning excursions back then. The next clinic was by Pete Solyom on modeling WP GP9 #725. This unit has a unique body style and is easy to recreate using an off the shelf Life-Like locomotive. The clinics were concluded with the feature speaker, Dave Stanley talking about his 20 years in railroading. His career has included a considerable time with the WP in functions such as brakeman, conductor, laborer, and yardmaster. His slides and narrative were fun to listen to. Dave also spoke briefly about his experience as engineer on the E units through the canyon this past summer. After Norm spoke about the recent activities at the museum and about the ongoing projects, it was time for the contest awards and raffles.

This year's entrants for the contest were less than expected. Bill Mattill won the steam category for his HO scale 2-6-6-2. Bill also won for his HO scale FT A and B units in the green and yellow scheme. Bill won the M of W and caboose categories for his steam tender in M of W service and wood bay window #653, respectively. Pete Solyom won both for freight car and passenger car for his HO models of GS wood gon wood chip car and heavyweight RPO. Best of show went to Bill for his brass FT's (are we ever going to see plastic FT's?) I hope that future meets will bring out a greater participation in the contest so we don't have to eliminate it. We may add a photo category, what do you think? This year's meet had the greatest number of raffle prizes to date, with more and more contributors jumping in. This year's contributors were: Life-Like Products, Pentrex, Microscale, MDC-Roundhouse, Rail Model Journal, Model Railroading, as well as area hobby shops and the FRRS. All of these contributors deserve a heartfelt thanks for their support of this function.

Also the following people deserve thanks for their work in making this year's meet a success: Sue Solyom, Tim Dickinson, Dave Stanley, Mike Mucklin, Thom Anderson, Roger and Dottie Aten, and Norman and Barbara Holmes. We look forward to continuing this event. Next year it will be in a new location, as the city is opening a new meeting facility.

I would like to ask anyone who would like to participate in the organization of this event to contact Pete Solyom, 440 Portola Ave., La Habra, CA 90631. It is a lot of work to put this on and any help is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing old as well as new faces next year. Until then,
WP Lives...

Request to the Membership

We hereby request that members who take photographs (either still photos or videos) of museum events such as Motorcar Races, and Railfan Day, offer to the museum some of their pictures for use in publications and for storage as archives. Most of the active members who would normally be taking photos are involved in operations on these days and are therefore unable to take photos.