

Announcing the formation of...

The Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society

The new Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society is accepting applications for membership. Operating as a separate division of The Feather River Rail Society, the WPRRHS is dedicated to serving as the "Historical" wing of the FRRS.

Our Mission Statement:

1) The collection and preservation of documents, photographs, memorabilia, oral history and other artifacts of, and pertaining to the history and operation of the railroad company known as the Western Pacific Railroad. This would include subsidiaries, connecting short line and industrial railroad operations.

2) The dissemination of said information through FRRS and WPRRHS publications, library services, historical seminars, conventions, guest lecturers and FRRS/WPRRHS social functions and public events.

Our Staff:

Administrator: John S. Walker has been appointed by FRRS President Steve Habeck to take charge of getting the WPRRHS up and rolling through the convention in September. John, an avid WP historian, has written articles and columns for Trains, CTC Board, Pacific Rail News and The Lark. A past member of the FRRS Board of Directors, John is a member of several railroad historical societies and other non profit volunteer organizations.

Librarian/Archivist: Kent Stephens. Kent is the author of Matches, Flumes and Rails: The history of the Diamond Match Company and numerous historical articles. He is a tireless researcher and has long been a friendly source of information and assistance to authors and historians. Kent has also served on the Board of Directors of the FRRS and is currently employed as a librarian for California State University at Chico where he is working on a new railroad book.

Conservator: Lolli Bryan. Lolli will be responsible for the day to day care and maintenance of the FRRS/WPRRHS Library in addition to her volunteer work at the Portola Railroad Museum.

Editor: Bill Shippen. Editor and publisher of Shasta Rail Group which publishes Filmsies, Filmsies Northwest, SP Review and several upcoming books.

Convention Director: John S. Walker will be in charge of the 1st Annual WPRRHS Convention in Portola on September 14, 1996 which is in conjunction with Railfan Day. Peter Solyom will be in charge of the FRRS Southern California Regional Meet on October 12, 1996 in La Habra, California.

The WPRRHS is now producing the FRRS' historical publication, "The Headlight," which was founded in 1990 by John Ryczkowski. The new Headlight staff has completed issue #12 which was mailed on August 5 and 6, 1996. Issue #12 includes articles on the Burlington Northern Pool Power which invaded the WP in the 1970's, part two of "Taming the Canyon" an article written by WP dispatcher Peter Josserand which was originally printed by Railroad Magazine in November 1946, an article on modeling a WP "Recreational Vehicle Carrier" autorack and a feature on WP GP7 707 which is preserved at the Portola Railroad Museum. We think you'll like the new format.

The Headlight Editorial Staff:

Editor: Bill Shippen.

Associate Editors: Peter Solyom, John Ryczkowski,
John S. Walker.

Technical Editor: Thom Anderson.

Research Specialist: Kent Stephens.

Production Manager: Mike Mucklin.

All FRRS Active, Family, Sustaining, Life and Family Life members are automatically members of the WPRRHS.

Membership in the new WPRRHS is \$22.00 for four issues of The Headlight. WPRRHS members do NOT receive the FRRS' "The Train Sheet" which is the museum newsletter, nor do they vote in FRRS elections. But for all other purposes, WPRRHS members are considered to be full fledged FRRS members and are entitled to the same privileges (half off special event fares and 10% member gift shop discount) as regular FRRS members.

All FRRS Active, Family, Sustaining, Life and Family Life Members are considered to be WPRRHS members and will receive The Headlight, The Train Sheet and are eligible to vote in FRRS elections and to participate in the Museum's various departments.

If you have questions or comments regarding the WPRRHS, The Headlight, WP modeling or history.....or would like to contribute to the library or to The Headlight, please contact us at WPRRHS, P.O. Box 608, Portola, CA 96122. We are looking into establishing a WPRRHS World Wide Web site, but until then E-Mail us at:

76362.167@compuserve.com

If you would like to converse with a real person you can phone John Walker at (916) 671-9584 in the evenings. Questions and comments regarding the FRRS or the Portola Railroad Museum should be addressed to FRRS, P.O. Box 608 Portola, CA. 96122 (916) 832-4737.

WP Lives!