

- The Train Sheet -

News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Portola Railroad Museum
 Editor – Frank Brehm (916) 334-7476
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 Contribution Deadlines: Last Friday of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Presidential Notes

Hello Fellow Members,

Another operating season is upon us and our membership is responding. The train crews have started refresher as well as initial crew training, the mechanical department has been attending to the equipment to insure good running condition, as

well as the facilities people getting the building and grounds cleaned and ready for a busy year.

“Have you decided how and where you would like to volunteer your services this year?”

Have you decided how and where you would like to volunteer your services this year? If you have a preference, please contact Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson or myself, Skip Englert and

we will try to get you lined up with your choice of assignments. We need volunteers for information booths, ticket booths, walk around docents to help visitors find what they want to see, answer questions etc. etc. If we do not have the job you would like, let us know so we can consider creating a position that you would feel comfortable in filling. We need all the help and volunteers we can get, so come on up and join in the fun.

- Skip Englert

For Sale

Member Bob Keene has some Western Pacific and California Zephyr plates, etc for sale. If interested you can contact him at 775-423-3585 or by mail at 4455 Schurz Highway, Fallon NV 89406

Facilities Report

The building and grounds of the Museum are a constant demand on resources. Over the past year, however, progress to rehabilitate this 1950 facility has been moving right along. In some cases, volunteers have moved a portion of the project ahead. At times contractors were hired to perform work, such as the electrical upgrades.

We are now in phase two of our electrical upgrade. This deals with the increase in power availability to the membership support facility areas. Yet to be completed is the upgrade to make the shower and sleeping facilities available year round. These improvements will also allow for the installation of air conditioning in the sleeping car which solves a continuing problem in the summer when interior temperatures of the car soar. After the utilities are complete, a deck will be constructed between the shower and sleeping cars. This will allow for an essentially level transition between the two areas.

The shower car is now complete. The new end is in service and provides three additional showers, two toilets, and a double sink wash area. The old electrical meter panel on the north side of the building has been completely removed. We will now replace the fence fabric and the enclosure will be used for secure storage.

The "Beanery" is back on line as of June 18th. Sue and Bruce Cooper have returned and their familiar faces are a welcome sight.

Also planned for this year is the installation of a viewing platform adjacent to the rip track next to the fence separating the Museum from the Union Pacific main line and yard tracks. This platform will be approximately 6 feet off the ground and have safety rails all around. From this viewing point, visitors will be able to watch UP trains departing and arriving from the east and west.

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CMO Report

The WP 2001 was fired up at 1:13 PM. Tuesday the 11th of May. Smoke poured from the stack and loud cheers came from the mouths of all present. All radiators are watertight and the engine runs well. A through systems check will be made before it is pronounced serviceable. One of our members, Oden Lorimer, has volunteered to paint the zebra strips on the pilot, so this project is coming together well.

As reported in the last Train Sheet, WP 512 needs two cylinder heads changed out. This work has now been started only to stop when we found that some special tools and a "Head/ liner seating tool" are needed to complete the job. I am happy to report that these tools are now ordered so work will resume in the near future.

Work has started on servicing our locomotives for the 1999 season. The Locomotive Maintenance weekends have been a success so far this season. We can always use more people to help out with this work and no experience is required, so please come on up and you to can and help with this important work.

- Hank Stiles

Operating Department

A large number of members showed up to take the annual rules exam. One disappointment was the lack of new trainees. Because of a shortage of personnel in the operating department we have posted "Help Wanted" signs in various locations. There are currently days in the crew mark-up book with a critical shortage of qualified crew members or no crew members signed up at all. The Operating Department and the FRRS need your help. Crew training is fun and a good way to meet other members.

Newly qualified for 1999 are Don Bordon – Yard Engineer and William McGrath – Brakeman. Congratulations on your new qualifications.

- Jim Gidley Sr., Trainmaster

Gift Shop Report

Sales in the gift shop are slowly picking up. New book and video stock has been received. There is a new video tape covering the WP on hand and from my review it looks good. Trains didn't think it exactly lived up to its title because it covers an earlier period of the WP in addition to the "green era."

- Norm Holmes

Facilities Report

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Plans are under way for cleaning out two boxcars this year. This sounds like a minor venture but the contents of many of the boxcars at Portola are a mixture of stored material. It is not unlike cleaning out one's own garage. Imagine that chore then double or triple the effort.

Another project on tap is the scraping of a great deal of steel and other materials that have accumulated on the property. The present plans call for the placement of two scrap boxes and the disposal of scrap into the boxes until they are full. Materials are deemed useful will be retained and placed into storage racks. The goal is to clean out the tear-shaped median between the rip and track 1 on the West End so that displays of rip track parts and other items of interest can be set up.

There are many more projects under consideration. Volunteers are always needed for these projects. If you have the desire to participate your help will be appreciated. Our master goal is to clean up the property and make it safe and presentable for all who take the time to come to Portola.

Shop personnel are in the process of attempting to identify proper ownership of tools and equipment at the museum. If you have personal items at the museum please let us know and make arrangements to have those items marked and recorded. After 8-31-1999 any unidentified items will be considered FRRS property and subject to be marked as such.

- Doug Morgan