

Operating Department

By Jim Gidly, Sr. and Kerry Cochran

2000 CREW TRAINING AND RULES EXAM.

"I've been working on the Railroad", The old song that many of us remember from years pasts. Well here is your chance to try it out for real, "Working on the Railroad" that is.

Each year the Operating Department of the Portola Railroad Museum holds it annual crew training and rules exam.

The rule examination is an open book test on the FRRS General Code of Operating rules with no time limit. Should you not have a copy of the rules book, one will be issued to you. Each member that works in the operating department needs to take this test along with crew training.

After the rules examination, there is hands on training of crews who wish to participate in train operations or any other work with moving railroad equipment. Upon successful compellation of the rule exam, crew members will be instructed in hand signals, getting on and off moving equipment, coupling rolling stock, coupling air hoses and the safe and correct operating procedures.

New members joining the operating departing, will be assigned student train crew duties and start their training as student brakemen.

The Operating Department operates passenger trains every weekend from Memorial Day through Labor Day. We operate Saturday and Sunday from 11AM to 4 PM, with a lunch break. On operating weekends, lunch will be provided for train crewmembers.

Crewmembers should come prepared with work gloves, work boots that cover your ankles, and work clothes. When you become qualified, the gift shop will issue a operating department T-shirt and hat.

Please be prepared to bring your calendar so that you may sign up on the Crew Duty sheet. This allows the operating department supervisors to schedule crewmembers, and schedule for special events.

The Crew Duty sheet will change this year, and the final announcement on crew positions will be issued during crew training. In the past, crewmembers signed up by date and position, this year there may be a change in how this is performed. Crew members may be ask to sign up for the dates that they know they will be available to work, and on the day of the operation, the supervisor will make assignments, based on the qualified persons that are available.

Crew training dates for this year are: Saturday April 29, and Sunday May 6, from 10AM to 3 PM. The times of the training varies due to the experience of the members in attendance.

You may attend either of these days. If you are

unable to attend classes on either of the days, you can make arrangements to take the rules examination and receive instruction at any other time by calling the operating department.

You need to bring a Pencil or Pen, proof of membership, Active or above (if you are a non-member you can join the FRRS at this time). Overnight accommodations are available at the museum for members, and arrangements can be made with the operating department. Remember to bring a sleeping bag and toiletries if staying overnight.

Jim Gidley, Sr. Superintendent of Operations, Trainmaster (9530) 342-3903

Kerry Cochran Superintendent of Operations, Assist Trainmaster (650) 952-7127

Portola Railroad Museum (530) 832-4131

Membership

By Kerry Cochran

Since I took over the Membership duties last February 1999, I have made great strides in getting the membership files updated. However this is always a task that needs attention every month.

Your help is needed. During the last 10 months I have found several members that were inadvertently left out of the files, and several members have come forward to let us know they were getting mail at the wrong address.

As time passes, I need all members to make sure the information in our membership files is correct. Your help in bringing any errors to our attention along with the needed corrections will help us keep all members informed by way of the mail service.

All payments for membership, address changes or other items related to membership services should be sent to:

FRRS Membership Services
P.O. Box 608
Portola, Ca. 96122-0608

Please remember to include your Zip Code + 4, as the U.S. Postal Service has informed us that our Bulk Mail may not be delivered without the full 9 digits of the zip code.

Those with Email, may contact me directly at my address of: kc6knt@compuserve.com

Kerry Cochran, Membership Services
(530) 832-4131 Museum
(650) 952-7127 Home (evenings between 6PM and 8PM)