

Operating Department

By Jim Gidley

A very special weekend for all museum members will be held on Saturday May 5th, starting at 10am and ending in the afternoon of Sunday May 6th 2001. This promises to be a very busy weekend with multiple activities planned. The operating department will hold it's annual rule exam and crew training. As a reminder the rule exam is open book with no time limit so don't be shy, come up and become a member of the operating department. We can always use the help and the training is free. Proof of membership will be required for the rule exam.

We will be showing training videos, there will be passenger train operations, so you can refresh your operating skills (knock the rust off), yard switching, night operations, (how many of you have done this?) and fire extinguisher training.

This is a chance to meet some of the museum members, renew old friendships and swap stories. We will also be giving the mechanical and facilities departments a big hand with projects they have underway.

Saturday evening prior to the night operations beginning a hot dinner will be served for those participating in this years training.

Scheduling for the 2001 operating season will take place so start thinking of the dates you would like to mark up for. By signing up early crew rosters can be made up for the coming season and training scheduled for those wanting to upgrade to a higher level. Please bring a pencil, proper footwear, gloves, flashlight, sleeping and personal gear, and an interested friend.

For those of you who are unable to attend these classes please call so arrangements can be made for the rules exam and any training or instruction necessary for your continued qualification.

I look forward to seeing you and if you would like to help in any area please call Jim Gidley 530-342-3903 or email me at trainman2873@yahoo.com

New Fund Drive

We were all saddened by the death of Skip Englert last year. One of the things Skip was particularly interested in was for us to provide handicapped persons access to our caboose train. A year before his death he proposed that we purchase a handicap wheel chair lifting unit. A company in Calgary, Canada manufactures the lift. The lifts are present at most of the Amtrak stations and Niles Canyon Railway has recently purchased one. They report that it gets more use than they expected and didn't realize how important it was to have one.

I proposed at the December Board meeting that we start a fund raiser for such a purpose as a memorial to Skip. Several business firms and service clubs have been contacted for donations with favorable results.

Our goal is to raise the cost of the unit, currently \$6,775 delivered to Portola. One of our cabooses will be modified so that a wheel chair or a person with limited mobility can board the train. Any donations toward this purchase should be sent to Feather River Rail Society, C/o Skip Memorial, P O Box 608, Portola CA 96122.

WPRRHS

By Thom Anderson

As I mentioned in the last column, the WPRRHS 2001 Convention is to be held in Modesto, California on April 27 & 28. I hope the modelers in attendance at the convention bring as many models as possible to display and enter in the contest. I find seeing models built by others to be one of the best sources of inspiration to do some model building of my own.

Someone recently suggested to me that the Society "sell stuff". He was suggesting decals and reference books, not the Society assets!

This has been tried in the past (the ice service refrigerator cars are an example) linked to a convention. Other societies offer items that run the gamut from old annual reports, reprints of equipment diagram books, to custom models and decals. For a railroad the size of the WP, there is a good selection of decals in HO scale.

The area that seems to be lacking (in my opinion) are flatcars, gondolas, hoppers, maintenance of way, any SN or TS cars, and heavy-weight passenger car decals.

This is an area where the possibility exists for the Society to provide a service to the members and generate revenue to benefit the Society as well.

I believe that the Society can do this, but it will take the work of several individuals to make it happen. Decals have become easier to do with the advent of computer programs to do the layout work, along with computer printers that can print any color on decal paper.

When using a computer for decal work, it becomes much simpler to do the same decal in two or more scales to satisfy those who model in other scales than HO. If you have information, computer abilities, or can help in other areas, please let me know. If a project can move forward and benefit the Society and the membership, it can only have a positive effect. If you have a suggestion for a convention or fundraising car, or have a want-list of some item or decal that is not currently made, please make that known to us as well.

On a different subject, a selection will be made soon with regard to production duties for the Headlight magazine. Several parties interested in the job will be interviewed in January and a decision will be made shortly thereafter. I will continue to keep you posted on the progress, and ask for your patience for a little longer. My highest priority is to get the magazine operating on a reasonable and regular schedule in 2001.

Feather River Canyon Featured

From Print Media Services

California's Feather River Canyon is the cover feature of Wheelers 2001 RV Resort & Campground Guide and Wheelers Jumbo Road Atlas to be off the press December 28, 2000. The writer/photographer, Tom Sanders, is a resident of Oroville, California, and well known in the area for his photography.

Guides cover price is \$16.95, Atlas cover price is \$9.95. Look for these in your local RV dealership or contact Print Media Services, 1310 Jarvis Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 or at wheelers@yahoo.com