

From the Chairman

By Hank Stiles

Andy Anderson, our president, has for reasons associated with his health, asked for a six-month leave of absence. As Vice-President I have taken over for Andy until his return. I know that we all wish him a speedy recovery

This is a task of great importance that I take on and I will do it in a manner that will help the society reach its goals and meet its future.

The year 2001 has dawned with many challenges for the Feather River Rail Society. Can we meet these challenges? I think we can. In my 16 years with the Society, we have always come together for the good of the society. We have hit some bumps in the road, but we are far from in the ditch. I'm betting that we pull through these trying times and go on to a bright and stable future.

Some of the challengers that we face in this new century are;

We have the old Western Pacific Hospital. What should we do with it, now that we have it? At this time Norm Holmes and Frank Brehm are working on a stabilization and restoration plan for the hospital. I envision this facility as a place where we can tell the story of the Western Pacific. We will have room for not only displays of a historical nature but also a gift shop, Beanery, office space and library. All of this is under consideration, as we don't have a plan yet. So now is your chance to put in your two cents while this is in the planning stage. Get involved it's your society. Who has the right to help lead this society if not the members? It's not the Board of Directors who writes the music, we just play it for you.

We have the camp car that by the time you read this we should have moved to a place in Oroville where we can start the stabilization and restoration of the car. The Feather River Rail Society is pleased and honored to have this piece of Western Pacific railroad history. Not many museums have cars used in constructing the railroad of their mission survive after almost 100 years

Also on our plate is operating the museum itself. There is a long list of jobs, from hosting and feeding our visitors, operating trains, repairing cars and locomotives, maintaining the museum property, and operating the gift shop. Ongoing restorations like the WP 805-A and the Zephyr Project add to the jobs on the list.

This is an exciting time for the Feather River Rail Society; many new avenues are opening up for the Portola Railroad Museum and the Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society. Master Facilities Plan, revising our Bylaws and Policies and Procedures Manual are just some of the things that the society is doing at this time. There are as many jobs to do, as there are members. Everyone's talents are needed. If you would like to help the society we have a job you can do.

We are looking at grants to fund our activities. It is an unfortunate fact that we do not have the volunteers or the money to hire replacements. We would like to be a responsible member of the railroad historical community. Sadly we have more jobs than hands to do them. So we must find other ways to do the work

of the society. Securing grant money and hiring people in place of volunteers looks like our only choice if we want to protect the history of the Western Pacific Railroad. The more volunteers we can get the farther our monetary resources will go and the more projects we can get done.

As a new year of operating the museum and the WPRRHS gets closer every day we continue to find ways to make the society work better. Please be a part of the solution. You and I are the glue that makes it all work. Please think of what you can do to help out.

Mechanical Department

By Hank Stiles

The museum is open. Soon the RAL program will start for the summer season. This all points to the fact that the Mechanical Dept. must begin a new operating season.

By the end of March two locomotives must answer the call for RAL service, The WP 608 and SP 2873. I will be at the museum in the middle of March to get the two units ready for their late March call (helpers are welcome).

Saturday April 7th marks the start of another season for the mechanical dept. work weekends. Work weekends will be on the first Saturday each month through October. Work Weekends are one of your chances to help the museum serve the public in its role as educator and storyteller. When we have a crew of five or six people available to work on a weekend its makes a huge difference in getting needed jobs done. It also helps out in that one person does not have to do all the testing of equipment when the work is done.

Projects in line for this spring include; Remove, test, repair and reinstall the oil cooler on the FR&W 1857, repair of the air compressor on the WP 707, and work on the fuel injectors on the WP 512.

I would like to do something different this year and have project managers. A project manager would work with me and be in charge of one project. This person could work on the project him or herself or recruit people to do the actual work. They would develop a plan of action on the project to establish how they will get the job done. List all parts and supplies needed to finish the job. Follow through until the project is completed. Anyone who has an interest in being a project manager please get in touch with me. My email address and phone number are on page two of this Train Sheet.

This year I would like see many of you up at the museum enjoying not only the the museum itself and the wonderful people that visit but also enjoying the people that make the museum work, their a great bunch of people.

We have upgraded the volunteer facilities. A shower car to clean up after a rewarding day work, Barbecue dinners on our new deck and a sleeping car to rest your head at the end of the day. Please visit and enjoy everything that we have done for your comfort.

See you at the museum.