

complaining. With that said, we need to make sure that all past attendees are contacted. I will continue to work on this. We update the list each year as to who has attended.

**Handling of Monies:** This was not the first year that the Convention Coordinator handled all the money but the first since the Board asked that we do it this way. It appeared to work fine but I need to fine tune the procedures.

When the Chairman needs additional funds prior to the convention, I am going to have to question what it is needed for! Also in the future no one will be allowed access to the onsite cash at the convention. We can not allow the Convention Chairman or anyone else to just take money out of the till for any reason, even with receipts. This will be added to the guidelines. We have a checkbook for this reason.

**Future Conventions:** At this point we have a chairman for 2005, Tracy ? and 2006, Chico. We held off on signing up the site for Tracy as to cost. I wanted to see how the higher registration cost was received at Reno ( no complaints ) before I committed us to a facility. This appears to have been a good idea due to the big jump in attendance. We have moved beyond the smaller facilities and I am now having trouble finding something large enough in Tracy or the surrounding area.

It may be time to select a site and use that each year as our semi permanent site. This way we can draw our Chairmen from anywhere and the site work would be taken care of for them. Moving along the right of way was a cool idea but I think we are outgrowing the concept. Each year we can look at what is or is not available in the area that the Chairman comes from and then place the convention accordingly falling back on a preset site if needed. 2008 could be the first that would be looked at in this way, as I am looking at Sacramento for 2007 and I'm sure we will be able to find the facilities we need there. Thom and I will continue to look into this.

**In conclusion:** The only major problem we had this year was the selling of late dinner tickets. The Hotel allowed us to sell tickets right up to the last minute and this did cause problems. We had people just showing up and sitting down, even with someone checking tickets at the door! I even tried to throw our Union Pacific guests out! **Sorry** We do not make any money off the dinner tickets. We have to pay for dinners that are not paid for out of our registrations. It appears to be the same people every year causing this confusion about dinners. The Hotel felt we had an extra 10 dinners and that would have been almost \$300 out of our profit!

I was able to meet with the Hotel and they agreed to just charge us for the count we had given them at 5 pm. This is covered in the guidelines but just got out of hand. I will go over this as a red flag item with future Chairs.

Our 8th Convention was successful both in a financial sense and most of all, for the attendees.

## John's Ramblings

### a semi-accurate report of what goes on around the museum

05.01.04 Board Meeting with Book Keeper Susan Scarlett and Treasurer Dan Brady attending. New sidewalks opened to the public. This is a great improvement to the museum and really makes the entrance easier to use and more attractive. General cleanup of the east end. Dwight Wolfinger and Ken Finnegan dug out drain line on South side of building, which had been buried by the new concrete work. Don Nelson ran RAL's. Lots of Operating people took rules exams and several new volunteers completed orientation into Operating Dept. Good crowds and turnout of volunteers. Paul and Ken Finnegan separated and crushed aluminum cans for recycling.

05.02.04 Dwight Wolfinger, Paul and Ken Finnegan, Dave Epling, Spencer Walker, Charlie Spikes, Tom Anderson all pitched in to help sort out the party car and move tables and chairs into another car for storage. This job would have taken John Walker two days to do on his own. But due to great teamwork, the job was finished in two hours. Thanks guys! Kerry Cochran ran Operating Dept. Rules examination and new volunteer orientation classes in baggage car. Rod McClure inspected locomotives and track for the cause of some grinding problems on the balloon track. Wayne Monger, Dave Epling, Ed Powell, Spencer Walker, Gail and Rod McClure, Don Nelson, Frank Brehm, Eugene Vicknair, and Autumn Winters worked on various track maintenance projects on balloon track. Doug Morgan lubed center plate on WP 608 and adjusted side bearings. Don Nelson ran RAL's.

05.03.04 Ken Iverson ran RAL's, John Walker restocked Gift Shop.

05.04.04 Linda Knudson worked in Gift Shop. John Walker worked on Gift Shop inventories and restocking. Good to see Jim Halliwell back at the museum after surgery last year. Jim is working on drawings of our wood cabooses.

05.05.04 John Walker drove to Chester to pick up donation from the estate of George Crandell, who was an early member and volunteer in the Operating Dept. John also used the opportunity to deliver museum brochures to three museums in Westwood, Chester, and Quincy as well as Chambers of Commerce and Visitor Centers around Lake Almanor.

05.06.04 Jim Halliwell continued on caboose drawings. Frank Beavers and Jim Cooper worked on Archives. Howard Hanson worked on WP 614 caboose. Norman Holmes ran RAL's.

05.07.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's.

05.08.04 Loren Ross Ran 5 hours of RAL's, Linda Knudson and Julie Anderson worked in the gift shop.

05.09.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's. John Walker did general cleanup of the east end of the building and the tool room.

05.10.04 Slow Day. John Walker caught up on paperwork and worked in tool room.

05.11.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's. John Walker worked on gift shop inventories.

05.12.04 John Walker used the big forklift to move blocks of broken concrete away from the east end of the building. Frank Beavers and Jim Cooper worked in the Archives car. Frank and John went to investigate an old piece of railroad equipment in

town which turns out to be what appears to be a carriage from an old saw mill which was once located on the south side of Portola. Jim Eroh worked on computers.

5.13.04 Linda Knudson worked in the gift shop while Andy Anderson ran RAL's.

5.14.04 Don Nelson and John Walker ran a train ride for a school class from Greenville. Brittany Knudson helped out as a car attendant. Linda Knudson worked in the gift shop while Don Nelson ran RAL's. John Walker posted new signs and gave tours. Steve Habeck, Don Nelson and Doug Morgan brought the Quincy #4 onto the property from the UP yard after it's arrival on the afternoon local.

5.15.04 Don Nelson ran RAL's and did some dirt work with the backhoe on the east end of the shop. Ed Powell did various mechanical work while John Walker continued working on reorganizing the tool room and the shop areas. Julie Anderson ran the gift shop.

5.16.04 Don Nelson, Rod McClure and John Walker continued cleanup of the east end of the building. New rock and roadbase spread over the area to level out the ground between tracks one and two. Ed Powell wrestled tie down chains off the Quincy #4. John Walker and Rod McClure cleaned up accumulated scrap and dumped it into the scrap gondola before starting work on cleaning out a boxcar that had a lot of broken chairs, patio furniture, 55 gallon barrels of sand and various mechanical parts stored in it.

5.17.04 Rod McClure, Steve Habeck, Jason Krois and Matt Parker switched the Rip tracks and positioned Quincy #4 against the ramp for unloading. John Walker and Doug Morgan helped remove the last of the tie down chains and wheel chocks. After successfully unloading the engine onto the ramp from the flatcar it was loaded on, the whole Rip track had to be put back together. About 9 hours of work.

5.18.04 Steve Habeck, Jason Krois and Rod McClure did some additional switching around the yard. RAL locomotives were turned and positioned for the upcoming operating season. Jim Stewart of South Dakota visited the museum and donated \$200 to the general fund! Thanks Jim.

5.19.04 Jack Zigner ran some RAL's at the museum. Visitors from New Zealand. John Walker swept down the entire engine house and shop, picked up trash around the property and put up new signs.

5.20.04 John continued cleanup of the engine house. Rick Edwards delivered the exhaust manifold from the Fairbanks-Morse which had been sent down to Oakland for machining. Rick and John also spread some new roadbase material around the west end of the shop to eliminate some tripping hazards and fill in low spots. Steve Habeck checked batteries.

5.21.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's while John Walker restocked the gift shop, changed light bulbs and continued general cleaning before it started raining. Erik Frodsham of Fresno donated some locomotive light bulbs to us. Thanks Eric.

5.22.04 Ken Iverson and Norman Holmes ran RAL's while Eugene Vicknair and Eric Stephens worked on the volunteer lounge car. John Walker and Charlie Spikes worked in the shop area and did general cleanup around the building.

5.23.04 Eugene Vicknair, Eric Stephens, Gail McClure continued work on the volunteer lounge car installing new win-

dows, electrical wiring and interior work. Andy Anderson ran RAL's. Van Kol concrete came in with a machine to bust up the remaining large slabs of concrete left over from the new sidewalk project. Gail also met with some potential fund raising representatives and potential donors. Eugene and Eric finally left about 10:00 pm.

5.24.04 Linda Knudson worked the gift shop while John took a day off.

5.25.04 Andy Anderson ran RAL's while John Walker cleaned up in the volunteer lounge car, did book keeping, office work, took care of the mail and together with Doug Morgan and Jim Eroh did some cleanup in the shop area.

5.27.04 John Walker cleaned up the sand bags from the north side of the building, restocked the gift shop and the crew refrigerator, cleaned up the crew break room, cleaned and restocked restrooms. Steve Habeck checked and serviced batteries.

5.28.04 Kerry Cochran, Don Nelson, Hank Stiles and Aaron Theisen, and Eric Johnson of The Bay Area Garden Railway Society worked cleaning up broken concrete on the east end of the building, wrestling pieces into the front end loader so Kerry could dump it in a storage area in the parking lot. Jack Palmer cleaned cabooses and locomotives while Lew Barnard ran RAL's. Linda Knudson and Brittany worked in the gift shop while the "Bagers" set up their G gauge layout in the engine house.

5.29/31.04 OPENING WEEKEND! Despite rain the night before, Saturday was sunny and cool. Lew Barnard and Jack Palmer switched off on RAL's. Kerry Cochran, Charlie Spikes, Paul and Ken Finnegan, Dave Epling, Spencer Walker, Don Nelson, Frank Villante and Pat Watkins ran the passenger trains flawlessly. Hank Stiles and Rick Edwards worked on various Mechanical Department projects. Brittany Knudson greeted visitors. The "Bagers" were a big hit and helped us get the new season off to a great start! Alan Hirasawa, Tom Andrews, Rod and Gail McClure and Julie Anderson also helped out over the weekend. Everything ran flawlessly, nothing broke down and everyone had a great time!

6.01.04 Alan Hirasawa, Rick Edwards and Hank Stiles worked on mechanical issues and did maintenance on engines and vehicles. Rod McClure and John Walker put the engine house back together and did clean up work.

6.02.04 Alan and Rick continued working on mechanical projects while Ken Iverson and Norman Holmes split the RAL's for the day.

6.03.04 Alan and Rick continued working on vehicles and locomotives. Kerry Cochran continued cleanup of the broken concrete on the east end of the building. Ken Iverson ran RAL's while Norman Holmes helped John Walker pick up and cleanup old pieces of wood lying around the property.

6.04.04 Kerry Cochran and John Walker worked on the volunteer Lounge car. Alan Hirasawa worked on locomotives. Rod McClure and Steve Habeck cleaned up around the oil house. John Walker, Don Borden, Dave Epling and Ed Wagner counted election ballots.

6.05.04 Kerry Cochran, Don Borden, Lew Barnard, Charlie Spikes, Tom Andrews, Ed Wagner and Eddie Chase crewed the passenger train rides. Steve Habeck worked on batteries. Hank Stiles, Alan Hirasawa, Rick Edwards and Ed Powell

worked on the #1857. Norman Holmes continued cleaning up scrap wood. Linda Knudson ran the gift shop and cooked crew lunches while Brittany Knudson-Walker-Cochran greeted visitors. Gail McClure prepared a great Annual Membership Dinner. Frank Brehm, Rod McClure, Steve Habeck and Eugene Vicknair graced us with their presence (funny how that happens when free food is available). Andy Anderson and Jay Sarno were also present.

6.06.04 Jay Sarno and John Walker walked around the property discussing signage and landscaping ideas to improve the look and flow of traffic around the museum. Jay also worked on the wiring on the volunteer lounge car. Ed Powell, Brittany Knudson, Rick Edwards and Hank Stiles worked on the FM #1857, reinstalling the exhaust manifold and water plumbing. Lew Barnard, Loren Ross, Don Borden, Kerry Cochran and Rick Edwards worked the passenger train. John Walker and Rod McClure cleaned out a boxcar and loaded scrap into the scrap gondola.

6.07.04 Rod McClure continued cleanup of the property and moved some things around with the fork lift. Norman Holmes ran RAL's.

6.08.04 Howard Hanson worked on various welding projects. A cold wind blew in from the northwest and Jim Ley showed up driving an old bus! Jim was the museum caretaker in the very early days of the museum and it has been many years since we have seen him after he took a job with the Yolo Shortline and then moved up to Washington State.

6.09.04 Jim Ley and John Walker made a run to the dump (dropping stuff off-not bringing stuff back) and filled up gas cans. John and Linda Knudson worked on putting in some new merchandise in the gift shop. Jim Eroh worked on computers. Jim has worked really hard on this project, taking 30 obsolete PC computers checking out all the components and then stripped the best parts out of the machines and managed to get six or seven units back up and running. In some cases he had to work his way past old Department of Defense password protection programs left inside the old military surplus computers we acquired over the years. There was nothing of value on the hard drives as they had been wiped clean but, the password protection was still in place and wouldn't allow Jim to boot up new operating systems or load new drivers. These computers will be used in the Operations Office, crew lounge and for audio visual programs in the entrance way of the building. Unfortunately, Jim has been transferred to Richmond, California to begin a new project for CalTrans and this was his last day here in Portola. We want to thank Jim for all his help over the winter and for making a great contribution to the museum! Good Luck Jim!

6.11.04 Ken Iverson worked on batteries for the #1857. John Walker and Jim Ley found over a \$1,000 worth of paint stored in one of the boxcars. They moved it to the paint storage area where one five gallon can was opened, tested and found to still be good! This aluminum paint will be used to touch up the outside of the building.

6.12/13.04 Ken Iverson ran RAL's while passenger trains were crewed by Don Nelson, Dave Epling, and Bill Parker. Linda Knudson worked in the gift shop while Brittany Knudson-Walker-Cochran greeted visitors and ran the model train. Bob Carr stopped by to say hello as did members Ted Murray and his

wife who were visiting from Canada.

6.14.04 Ken Iverson ran RAL's. John Walker and Ken also checked oil in the 608 and 2001. John also cleaned up the carpentry shop and paint storage areas before starting to touch up paint on the interior of the engine house walls.

6.15.04 John continued painting the interior engine house walls. 6.16.04 Jack Zygnier and Ken Iverson ran RAL's. Steve Habeck checked batteries and delivered mail. Steve and Rod McClure also inspected the Troop Sleeper to begin restoration and had a meeting with Doug Morgan and John Walker about materials and equipment needed to restore the car.

6.17.04 Jack Zygnier ran RAL's while Ken Iverson cleaned water sight glasses on locomotives. John Walker worked in the tool room and general shop cleanup before attending a Railroad Days planning meeting in town.

6.18.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's while John Walker continued painting inside the engine house.

6.19.04 Andy Anderson ran RAL's. Lew Barnard, Ed Powell, Eddie Chase, Dave Epling, Charlie Spikes and Loren Ross ran the passenger train. Brittany and Debbie Epling did touch up painting on the interior walls and greeted visitors.

6.20.04 Norman Holmes, John Walker, Loren Ross and Ed Powell ran passenger trains while Andy Anderson ran the RAL's. Rod McClure and Sara Eidman cleaned up various areas around the museum and dumped scrap in the scrap gondola.

6.21.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's while John Walker ran around town picking up supplies and running errands and cleaning up the carpentry shop.

6.22.04 Frank Beavers and Jim cooper worked on the archives cars while Ken Iverson and Norman Holmes split the RAL's. John Walker worked inside the Simplot reefer, rearranging things.

6.23.04 Bob Yarger of Railway Preservation magazine visited the museum. John Walker painted doors inside the shop.

6.24.04 John Sillito and Richard Sadler of Weber State University in Utah visited the museum. They are working on new displays concerning the Utah Construction Company (which built two thirds of the WP) and came by to share information and ideas with us. Dave Epling brought his daughters and Spencer Walker up to help paint doors and do repairs to the model railroad. Hank Stiles and Rick Edwards reinstalled the water jackets on the FM #1857 and filled it with water.

6.25.04 Hank and Rick installed batteries in the #1857 and got it running. Dave Epling helped Don Nelson spot engines on track two. Don also ran RAL's. Pam Blair from Ruralite Magazine visited the museum to do a story on our RAL program. "Daves Girls" finished painting interior and exterior doors.

6.26/27.04 Despite a nasty thunderstorm on Sunday, we had a busy weekend with Dave White, Tim and Tom Carter, Eric Stephens, Eugene "Heywood you do this for me" Vicknair working on the volunteer Lounge car. Bill Parker, Tom Andrews, Dave Epling, Spencer Walker, Don Nelson, Paul Finnegan, John Hittner and Norman Holmes ran passenger trains. Alan Vaughn and Frank Beavers worked on the BN speeder flat. Ken Finnegan worked with Hank and Rick on Mechanical maintenance. Howard Hansen worked on various welding projects. Dave McClain and Dwight Whetstone worked on WP 805 and 501. Rod McClure and Steve Habeck supervised.

6.28.04 Norman Holmes ran RAL's. "Dave's Girls" worked on the model train layout. Dave Epling and Spencer Walker did a "yard check" to maintain the museum roster. Another thunderstorm!

6.29.04 Another thunderstorm made it a slow day. Ken Iverson ran some RAL's while John Walker and Howard Hansen put up some new signs.

6.30.04 MORE THUNDERSTORMS!

### The Museum NEEDS YOU!

From October 9-17, 2004, we will be holding a WORK WEEK at the Portola Railroad Museum. There are several major work projects that we hope to complete during that time on both the museum trackage and the volunteer support facilities.

Ever wanted to be on a track gang? Want to help finish the new Volunteer Lounge and Recreation Area? Want to spend several days in the beautiful Feather River Canyon?

Come for whatever time you can, 1 day or the whole 9. Sleeping accommodations are available in the "Edenwold" and

showers right across the way in the Shower Car. Never been to Portola before? This is a great chance to meet other members and experience the museum first hand. Lunches will be provided. For breakfast and dinner, there are several restaurants near the museum or we have a barbeque in the Volunteer Area.

As a SPECIAL GIFT to members working 5 or more days, we will be firing up a locomotive or two toward the end of the week and giving those volunteers who have racked up 5 days during the week a chance to Run A Locomotive.

The major goals of the WORK WEEK will be completing Dodgepole Siding and the Volunteer Deck. Other projects are also on the slate, depending on turnout.

Dodgepole Siding is critically needed to support operations next year and the expanded Volunteer Deck will join the Silver Debris lounge in giving our volunteers a dedicated area to relax and socialize.

PLEASE mark your calendars and join us in Portola.

T0 sign-up for the Work Week and arrange lodging, or if you have any questions, please e-mail Eugene Vicknair at [evicknair@studiodred.com](mailto:evicknair@studiodred.com) or David Epling at [crrails@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crrails@sbcglobal.net).

Feather River Rail Society  
Statement of Financial Position  
As of December 31, 2003 and 2002

	Dec. 31, 2003	Dec. 31, 2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 145,589	\$ 131,220
Inventory at cost	49,697	37,601
Prepaid Expenses	19,000	20,000
Historical collection	2,069,694	2,037,980
Long-term investments	140,531	149,190
Property and equipment, net	147,597	154,721
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 2,572,108</u>	<u>\$ 2,530,712</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable	\$ 3,441	\$ 1,292
Gift certificates payable	8,556	8,961
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>11,997</u>	<u>10,253</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	2,281,017	2,266,044
Temporarily restricted	108,109	90,440
Permanently restricted	170,985	163,975
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<u>2,560,111</u>	<u>2,520,459</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 2,572,108</u>	<u>\$ 2,530,712</u>