

Operating Department News for the Upcoming Season

Calling all Members, Calling all Crews

The 2005 operating season is just around the corner. With this in mind, Crew Training weekend is coming up soon.

I would like to invite members of the Feather River Rail Society to join the members of the Operating Department on Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st, 2005 for our Annual Crew Training.

As in the past the Portola Railroad Museum needs its members help for this years operating season.

New Members and Members, who are not in the Operating Department, are welcome to join us. The Operating Department is always looking for new crewmembers, so think about joining us.

Crew Training will be held on one weekend this year. Saturday and Sunday starting at 9 AM each day, lasting until approximately 4 PM. (at least one hour break for lunch)

On Saturday night April 30th, a dinner will be provided by the museum, staffed by Gail McClure and her cooking staff. The dinner will be along the lines of an Italian style menu with all the fixings.

You only need to attend one of the two days. You are **not** required to attend both days. Classroom and Rules test will be conducted on both days and each day is identical.

I would encourage all members to attend and learn all the changes that have taken place since last year.

Should you not be able to attend the training days in April/May, The mandatory rules test can be provided through the year.

Requirements:

18 years of age (16 years of age for junior members with a sponsor).

Active membership or above.

Leather gloves.

Leather footwear that protects the ankles.

Please visit the FRRS WEB site at www.wplives.org and use the link to visit the crew pages hosted by Crew Caller, Paul Finnegan.

Attention all Locomotive Engineers.

Due to ever changing requirements in the Operating Museum arena, the operating department will be changing some practices for locomotive engineers this year.

During Crew Training on Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st, I will be discussing the Certification of Locomotive Engineers.

The purpose of this is to ensure that only qualified persons operate a locomotive or train. These new requirements, set standards for the eligibility, training, testing certification and monitoring of all locomotive engineers.

I would encourage all current qualified Portola Railroad Museum engineers to attend and learn about the changes that have taken place and what will be required of them starting this year.

Railfan Day 2005

The Portola Railroad Museum has decided to return the Railfan Day event in 2005.

As in the past it will take the operating department help to make this event successful.

The date for the event has been moved to Saturday May 21st, 2005. This will involve some prior yard switching before the event.

We need to have a minimum of one full crew (engineer, fireman, conductor and brakeman) and one supervisor on Saturday May 21st to operate trains for the event.

All operating department members please consider joining the FRRS for this event.

Lodging at the Museum

The Portola Railroad Museum provides sleeping/lodging facilities for its working crew during the year.

Weather you work on facilities, in the mechanical department, the operating department or any other area, the museum has lodging and restroom/shower facilities for its members.

Most of the time the lodging facilities are open to use without much notification, however during the peak-operating season (May thru September) reservations are required.

This requirement has been in place for about four years and prevents members from arriving at the museum and finding no room or wakening another member up in the middle of the night when they arrive late in the evening.

During the peak operation season, reservations can be made by contacting the Superintendent of Operations and/or checking the posted reservation sheet in the operating office for a vacant space in the sleeping car.

Advanced calls to the museum manager are also helpful to members so he can check the reservations sheet prior to your arrival.

As in the past the reservation sheets will be available starting on the crew-training weekend Saturday April 30th and Sunday May 1st.

As always restroom and shower facilities are open to all member at any time during museum operating hours.

Should you have any questions on the Operating Department or the crew training please contact me. Email KC6KNT@covad.net, Home telephone (650) 952-7127; Fax (650) 588-5490 or you can write me at P.O. Box 911. San Bruno, Ca. 94066-0911.

Kerry Cochran
Superintendent of Operations

Portola Railroad Museum
(530) 832-4131