

Promoting the FRRS Away From the Museum



Right: Pat and Linda Brimmer manned booth promoting the Run-a-Locomotive program and the FRRS at the recent Hostlers Festival.

Below: There was a large turnout for this years festival.

Photos supplied by Pat Brimmer.

By Pat Brimmer

The Hostler's Festival is a major model RR show and has been going on for at least 10 years. It is sponsored by the Hostler's Model RR Club and is held at the Union Station in Ogden in the early spring of each year. Average attendance for the show which runs from 5-9 on Friday, 9-6 on Saturday and 9-4 on Sunday is between 5,000 and 6,000. Saturday night at the banquet, they announced almost 3,600 people through the gate.

They had to give up one large room this year due to a scheduling conflict and so lost some vendors and model layouts. I counted about 10 different layouts. Most were modular but some were stand alone. Every scale was represented from Z to G. Lots of vendors selling everything from models to tools to railroad memorabilia. Union station itself has a large HO model rr layout behind glass in a long zigzag hallway representing UP railroading in northern Utah. Also at Union Station is a wonderful classic car exhibit and a huge exhibit of Browning

firearms on the second floor (both free with admission to model rr show).

Outside they have several locomotives and cars on display. Usually, they will not let you climb on the equipment but this year they did open up a few cabs. They did open a refurbished Troop Hospital Car and a refurbished RPO car. Both were nicely restored and interesting to visit. They also have a SAC car on site like ours. Locomotive's include UP 26, a gas turbine; a gp9, UP 833, a 4-8-4 northern, and an RSD-15 (ex Utah Railway, exx Santa Fe). I researched the history on the RSD-15 to find its Santa Fe number to see if I worked on it in the early 1960's out of Bakersfield. When I found the number and checked my time books, I found that I had not been on that particular locomotive.

You can visit their web site at www.hmrc.org. From there, click on Union Station, then on Utah State RR Museum and at the bottom of that page, click on Eccles Railroad Center to see their equipment.

