



Thanks to a lot of work by Don Borden, John Walker, Tom Carter, Eric Stephens and Eugene Vicknair, the new, ADA compliant ramp to the Volunteer Deck and cars is nearing completion. Don and John spent several days in October completing the surface decking and sealing the wood. All that remains now is to finish the railings and the concrete walkways that will lead to the ramp. Also, a set of stairs will be built about middle right of the photo, allowing for a quick trip up to the main deck. Also helping out with the project were Seth Adams, David Epling, Rod McClure and several other members who lent a hand when needed.

- photos by Eugene John Vicknair

FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Eugene John Vicknair

There has been a lot of work going on around the facility, most noticeably around the Volunteer Car Area (the Silver Debris Lounge, Silver Shower car, Edenswold sleeper and the deck), but encompassing the entire property. It is all part of an on-going effort to improve the look and condition of and access to our museum, both for visitors and members. With Charlie Spikes taking over the Facilities Manager job, I have been freed to focus on the Volunteer Area while Charlie and John Walker work on the Diesel Shop and the grounds. Under their guidance and care, a lot of improvements have been happening, including repainting (with special thanks to Mary Leal for all her hard work with a brush), repair and clean-up. John and Charlie also have plans to help mitigate the ice damage that costs us many Diesel Shop windows each year. Many new signs are now up in the Diesel Shop and the Gift Shop continues to grow.

In the Volunteer Area, we are hoping to complete the ramp and interior of the Silver Debris by spring 2006. The deck extension is also beginning, which will eventually tie the existing deck to the Silver Debris lounge. We still need donations of money or materials to complete the heating and air conditioning in the S. Debris as well as the kitchen. We have recently received donations of a big screen TV and sound system for the car.

Finally, I would like to thank long-time friend and FRRS member Eric Stephens for his help. Eric has been instrumental in many facilities projects over the past few years, most recently the Silver Debris. He is currently battling a brain tumor and has been following our progress from home, with plans to return to work at the museum as soon as possible.

The Silver Debris Volunteer Lounge is also coming along. In recent months, the focus has been on finishing the insulation and sheetrocking, with work being done by Kerry Cochran, Bill Parker, Paul "Yard Dawg" Lanyi, Tom Carter, Eugene Vicknair, Mary Ann Vicknair and Greg Elems. Ken Iverson and John Walker also pitched in. As you can see, the sheetrock is nearly complete. When you get 3-4 people working inside, you can also feel the difference the insulation makes. Extra special thanks goes to Jay Sarno, who has taken on completing the electrical work after Eric Stephens became ill. Jay has finished the wiring of the lights and electrical panel and the car is now functional. Also, with help from James Mason, Doug Morgan, Ed Powell and Eugene Vicknair, he completed a re-run of the conduit that feeds the Shower Car. Thank you, Jay!

