

Portola Railroad Days 2006

- Eugene John Vicknair

August 27-28 this year found the city of Portola once again celebrating Portola Railroad Days. And once again the museum rolled out the red carpet and featured special events for the weekend. In addition to our usual summertime caboose train rides, several modular model railroads were set-up in the Diesel Shop for viewing by visitors and members. While model and full size operations went on through the days, visitors also got a chance to see Union Pacific SD70ACe 1983, the Western Pacific Heritage unit. John Walker and company did a brisk business in the gift shop while several sales booths in the Shop featured WP memorabilia. The UP Yard Viewing Platform was open and visitors enjoyed the UP's frieght parade as trains went through their crew changes at the Portola Depot.

Finally, our newest California Zephyr car, dome coach "Silver Lodge", arrived on August 18 and was spotted on track 7 in full view of the parking lot, allowing our guests a prominent view of our new arrival.

Plans are already afoot to make 2007 an even bigger and better event. Please mark your calendars and come join us on August 26-27 for Portola Railroads Days.



WP GP20 2001 heads up a Portola Railroad Days caboose train. The train is just about to enter the balloon loop and pass the picnic area.

- photo by John Manter



Visitors enjoy the nice weather from the platform of our MoPac bay window caboose.

- photo by Ryan Martin



The chow line does good business as the train crew takes a break for "beans".

- photo by Kerry Cochran

Norm Holmes and Lew Barnhard pose with our ex-SP rotary snowplow, SPMW 208. The big plow was quite a hit with visitors, who had to walk past it when coming in from the parking lot.

- photo by Kerry Cochran

