

President's Report

- Rod McClure, FRRS President

It is late December, the Santa Trains are over and we are shut down until next year. The Santa Trains went very well this year. We had good size crowds on both evenings and the weather cooperated. Many happy faces were seen sitting in Santa's lap getting Candy Canes and telling Santa their wishes. This year we had some great donations from the local community to help cover our costs and it made the difference in us being able to do it again next year. A huge thanks goes to Steve Habeck and Jim Haliwel for doing all the caboose and engine decorating, Kathy Habeck and her friends, Pat and Linda Brimmer, Loren Ross, Eric Stephens, David Epling, Charlie Spikes, John Walker, Eugene Vicknair, and Gail McClure for all the cleaning, set up and decorating of the Baggage and Lounge Cars. More huge thanks goes to Mary Habeck for taking charge of the cookie and beverage service with help from Vicki Krois, Kathy Habeck, Linda Brimmer, and Julie Anderson. Gail McClure was laid up with some severe back pain and unable to attend either day, but did bake a bunch of cookies. Cookies were also baked by Mary Habeck, Mary Ann Vicknair, Louise Dunbar, Alicia , Charlie Spikes, and Hank Stiles. Kerry Cochran took care of the operating crews and John Walker worked the Gift Shop. Thanks to all for their time and help and I apologize for anyone I forgot.

As I said above, Gail McClure has been laid up with severe back problems but she is not the only FRRS member being hospitalized. Director Matt Parker spent almost two months in the Hospital fighting for his life against Toxic Shock Syndrome from a possible spider bite. He has won that battle and is recovering well. FRRS member John Manter was hospitalized for a lung infection that almost cost him his life but was successful in recovering and is doing well and out of the hospital also. And, as mentioned last issue, Life member Eric Stephens is still grappling with a brain tumor. Our best wishes to them and their families.

Among some of the other things going on, the Board of Directors approved changing the name of the Portola Railroad Museum to the more appropriate Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola. This goes along with the recent changes to the FRRS Mission Statement. We

have NOT changed the name of the Feather River Rail Society! That is the legal name of our Organization it is registered as a 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization in the State of California. The WPRM is a subsidiary of the FRRS, as is the WPRRHS.

Revenues in 2005 were not what we would have liked. Gas prices were one of the biggest reasons that our visitor numbers were down and, even though that has changed somewhat, we have to expect more of the same in 2006. Other organizations have reported similar situations. With that in mind, we are going to concern ourselves with raising money and increasing advertising. As of right now, there won't be any restoration projects started in 2006 unless money is donated for a certain project. We are going to focus on finishing up the small projects around the Museum and working on the building itself. It needs some work and Charlie Spikes, our Facilities Manager, has a long list of things to fix. This of course includes finishing the Silver Debris and Volunteer Deck.

We also need to do some much needed track repair and hopefully build new storage tracks. We have the material on hand for this, but need strong backs to build it. Watch the calendar and Webpage for Track Work Weekends this year. We also have lots of simple things that need to be done, like servicing the rubber tire equipment, equipment cleaning, and finishing projects that were started last year and the like. All of this does not take much or any money, just time and hard work. I want to thank all of you who have come up in 2005 and helped out and look forward to seeing you again in 2006.

Hopefully, in the next Presidents Report, I will have news of new acquisitions that we are working on.

Until next time. WP Lives.

Special Events

Railfan Photographer Day will be held May 20, 2006. Dunsmuir Railroad Days will be held on July 7-9, 2006. And Portola Railroad Days is scheduled for August 26-27, 2006. Check www.WPLives.org for more information in the coming weeks!