

WPRRHS 2006 CONVENTION

- Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Administrator

Over 120 people gathered at the Chico Holiday Inn on April 7-8 for the 10th Annual WPRRHS convention. Loren & Trish Dunlap and their crew did a fantastic job putting together the event. Everyone I saw was having a great time. Presentations on a variety of subjects were made by Allen Wood, Thom Anderson, Mick Needham, Tommy Holt, Robert Forren, Paul Beckstrom & Dave Braun, Tom Campbell, John Walker, Tom Lawler, Peter Jelito, Tom Irion, Dick Dorn, Matt Vurek and Dale Sanders.

One notable absence this year was Ken Meeker, who has been hospitalized the past few months. The Society wishes Ken and his family all the best for a speedy and full recovery.

John Walker brought a selection of items from the gift shop. Donations for the raffle were received from Athearn Trains, Walthers, Bates Publishing, Model Railroading Magazine, InterMountain, Classic Mint Collectibles, Microscale Decals, High Sierra Models, Trains Unlimited Tours, Tom's Trackside Trains, Western Depot, FRRS, and members Richard Young, Jim Wagner, Tom Lawler, Andy Carlson and Jim Dias. "Thank you" to all of the contributors for your donations. I also extend a heartfelt "thank you" to Gail McClure for her help with the raffle this year, continuing the tradition started by Norma Hayes. Through Gail's ticket selling abilities, enough funds were raised through the raffle to pay for an LCD projector that was purchased just prior to the convention. The savings from not having to pay rental fees for this type of item will fully pay for itself in a few years, and will provide the ability to project digitally formatted presentations at Society functions for many years in the future. Thanks again Gail!

Former WP employee Art Lloyd was to be the banquet speaker. Unfortunately, Art became ill, and though he is well on his way to recovery he was unable to be there under doctor's orders.

We hope to have Art appear at a future convention.

Ernie vonlbsch, who spent several years as a brakeman and conductor on the WP, SN, and the TS was willing to step in at the last minute and entertain the attendees with stories and photos of his experiences working on the railroad. Ernie, thank you again for filling in at the 11th hour. The show was enjoyed by all!

Once again, thank you Loren, Trish, Cindy, Vic, John, Gail, and the facility staff at the Holiday Inn for all of your efforts that resulted in a great convention! It couldn't have been the success it was without your dedication.

The 2007 convention is back in the Bay Area. The date and location will be announced shortly. No location has been set for 2008 as of yet.

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the trip home. No plans for her have been decided on.

Our Museum Manager, John Walker, has the Museum open and looking good for the beginning of our new season. He has lots of little projects to be done, so if you're at the Museum and want to help, check with John. The RAL program has gotten off to a slow start because of nasty weather, but reservations are beginning to increase. With the price of gas continuing to climb, I hope we can keep the number of RAL's steady, but I expect us to take a hit in people coming up to Portola account of extreme travel costs. Please check on the FRRS BBS before you come up to Portola as we have other members always looking to car pool to the museum.

Until next time, WP Lives!