

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Rod McClure, FRRS President

The end of the season is here again. This year's Railroad Days was very successful and lots of fun for all that attended. Kerry Cochran and his operating department got it done safely and provided non-stop rides for the heavy crowds. This year we had Dave (Motown) McClain and his motorcar providing rides for the public between the cabooses runs, along with two handcars loaned by our friends in Susanville, both of which were a big hit with our visitors. This may become a regular addition to our RR Days operations. I want to note here that McClain had a helper that we have not seen in years: Steve Milward. It is nice to see old members returning to help and be a part of our organization again. Tom Carter helped arrange for a group of Gunfighters from Carson City to come to the Museum and put on some great gunfights and "rob" our caboose trains. This was a huge hit with our younger guests. We had 3 different model railroad groups set up in the shop and a G scale live steam train operating out on the dock. We also had the Union Pacific's Mini Train operating both days, giving people rides from the Museum to Old Town. Unfortunately, the Mini Train's locomotive broke an axle when it was beginning its first run for the Parade. We quickly drafted our "tug" into service with a makeshift drawbar and it pulled the train all weekend. Special thanks goes to Reed Jackson and his wife Martha from the UP Steam crew for bringing the train and sweating their butts off all weekend for us. (Thanks again Boss!) Linda Knudsen and her crew provided great burgers and dogs both days for not only the crews but also the public. Gail McClure cooked up another of her fantastic dinners for the volunteers on Saturday night with Tri Tip and Chicken being the headliners. Great job Gail! (yes, I am partial to her cooking. How do you think I keep my trim figure....) Hank Stiles sat with his recently broken wrist selling RAL raffle tickets with help from Jack Hathaway. Charlie Spikes and Steve Habeck had our Rotary Snowplow open for display and operating, providing a nice breeze to those who watched the big blades spin. Of course, Portola Railroad Days this year would not have been a success without the tireless efforts and work of John Walker. John attended all the RR days meetings

and worked out all the details with the Committee and made sure a thousand details were attended to. Many hours of work goes into planning and setting up for RR days. Thanks to all of you who helped and came to Portola for the weekend to join in. We cannot make events like this happen without ALL of you!

In July, we again set out with some of our equipment for Dunsmuir for their annual Dunsmuir Railroad Days. With Gail McClure driving the chase vehicle, Steve Habeck, Phil Schmierer, Ed Dickens and myself departed Portola with the UP 6936 on the point hauling the WP 2001, our baggage car, lounge car, Silver Lodge and the UP105, our box car, the UP 25283 caboose and, bringing up the rear, was the WP 484. Upon our arrival at Dunsmuir and until our departure, Matt Shuman and the Dunsmuir RR Days people took care of all of our needs and made the whole event a pleasure to be at. We had all of our equipment open and on display for many visitors with one of the highlights being the UP 6936 being on the turntable and being spun once an hour for the crowds delight! Gail McClure and Mary Habeck worked the baggage car gift shop, providing us with some tidy sales. Thanks goes to Matt Shuman and his people who worked with me on every little thing, the Union Pacific for allowing us to take our equipment on the road, the people of Dunsmuir for having us, and our members who took the time to drive to Dunsmuir to help out. Besides our road crew mentioned above, Norm and Barbara Holmes, Hank and Janice Stiles, Julie Anderson, Frank Brehm, Jim Ley and Wayne Monger. Thanks to all.

Work continues on the WP 165. Chris Allen brought up the restored headlight and temporarily mounted it and the newly minted Builder's Plates for Railroad Days. It along with Norm Holmes' tender medallion made her look proud. Chris and Charlie Spikes have removed the side rods and other appliances preparing her for asbestos removal and final inspection. She is in much better condition than originally thought and we have great hope that once Chris is done with the final boiler inspection we can put together a complete report on restoring her to operation. Check out the new Steam Page on our Website! (<http://steam.wplives.org>) We still need donations to raise the money for the asbestos removal and any little bit will help.

## NEW MEMBERS

The FRRS would like to acknowledge and welcome the following NEW Members:

Mike Adams . Allen Adkins  
 Kevin & Janet Arendt . Robert Davis  
 K. D. Aylesworth . Brad Culligan  
 Rick Dewar . Daryll & Jean Faust  
 Melvin Flannagan, Jr.  
 Ronald Fritzsche . Rita Green  
 Linda Henker . Michael Harris  
 Wes Justyn . Richard Moore  
 Sheila Moss . Mark O'Brien  
 Jeff Pierce . John Pietrasik  
 Tim Purdy . Craig Thighe  
 Ron Turner . Rodney Wair  
 Doug Ward . Hadley Webster II  
 Ed Weatherbee

Thank you for your commitment to the Feather River Rail Society!

## RECENT DONATIONS

The FRRS would like to thank the following members and supporters:

Cliff Gerstner . Erik Frodsham  
 Robert Balnch . Tim Diaz  
 Douglas Ward . Ron Turner  
 Jay Sarno . Melvin Flannagan  
 Jack & Sherry Dorithy  
 Lloyd & Jane Cornell  
 George Buckingham  
 Chuck Holland . Jeffrey Baus  
 Jim Kramlich . Albert Evans  
 Jay Jacobs/Microsoft  
 Kerry Cochran/PG&E  
 Kevin & Janet Arendt  
 Ed Weatherbee . James Duncan  
 Foster & Mary Maxwell  
 James Homan . Mike Ingram  
 Lynn Winget . Donald Peterson  
 Donald & Diana Stark

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## GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Don't forget! The FRRS is offering its current members the chance to give a gift of membership to their friends and family! For a limited time, certain membership levels are 1/2 off when given as a gift to non-members. See the insert in this issue for more information.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT continued

I have mentioned before that we need to begin a concerted effort to bring younger people into the organization and, more importantly, we must begin to educate a whole new generation about the WP and its role in history. Many of today's young people have no idea what a train really is, other than a nuisance at crossings and something to throw rocks at when it goes by. I have asked Thom Anderson and the Historical Department to begin planning presentations to school age groups. It is our hope that by aggressively pursuing the younger generation

and enlightening them to the history of the WP and its role in the development of the world they live in, we can keep the passion of the WP alive for generations to come. If any of you would like to help with this project, please contact myself or Thom for more information. We are looking for those of you who are involved with teaching or child development that can help us get our presentation out there to as many places as possible.

Until next time,

WP Lives!