

## MUSEUM REPORT

- David Epling, Museum Manager

The summer season has concluded, although we extended the caboose trains to the end of September. As I conclude my first season as manager, I am happy with the way the summer went. Overall gift shop revenue was up, Caboose Train ride revenue was up and RALs were up.

We had a core group of volunteers throughout the summer that really pitched in and did what needed to be done. Our RAL Engineers, including Lew Barnard, Greg Elems, David Epling, Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson, Bill Parker, Matt Parker (no Relation), Craig Simmons, and Jack Zygnier, skillfully handled all scheduled RALs and the increase in walk-in RALs. We also had a weekend of RALs covered by Ops Supervisor Loren Ross, who escaped from his work at the Grand Canyon.

We've had an outstanding track crew in the form of Pat Brimmer, Kevin Caldwell, Tim Carter, Greg Elems, Matt Elems, David Epling, Rick Gruninger, Steve Habeck, Bart Hansen, Russ Johnson, Slim Liebey, Rod McClure, Wayne Monger, Bill Parker, Ed Powell, Daniel Simpkins, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, Eugene Vicknair, Spencer

Walker and Cody Wilson. (If I have missed anyone it is not intentional.) Track repairs to the RIP 1 Track are still ongoing and help is still needed. Railroad Days prep and takedown saw most of the names already mentioned, with the addition of Dave Ferreira, Cheri Johnson and Tom Olsen.

The Z scale layout is up and is runnable with a staff member present, usually Bart Hansen or Bob Sims. And speaking of Bob, he came up for several weeks to prep the layout for operation and also traveled to the National Train Show in Anaheim with me to operate it for the public. Also helping at the NTS were Mike Mucklin, Chris Allan, James Mason and Don Delay.

James Mason and Norm Holmes have been prepping U30B 3051 for new paint. Duane Vanderveen finished framing the windows in the WP 614 caboose and also helped on RR days as a car attendant.

Other off campus events have had Museum personnel working events such as the Sparks Farmer's Market (Kevin Caldwell, David Epling, Vicki Epling, Rick Gruninger, Matt Parker, Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, and John Walker.

Hot August Nights was staffed by Tom Carter, Tim



*A film crew uses our newly arrived PFE reefer.  
- photo by David Epling*

Carter, David Epling, Bart Hansen, Norm & Barbara Holmes, Matt Parker, Ed Powell, Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, & John Walker. There was a special appearance by Rod McClure and Reed Jackson of the Union Pacific Railroad's Steam Program with the Union Pacific's Mini-Train.

On December 8, a film crew used our newly arrived PFE reefer as a set for part of an independent film now in production. We're hoping to attract more such work to the museum.

The physical grounds are in good shape, most of my to

do list was completed, what was not completed was the Volunteer Deck between the Edenwold and the Shower Car.

With all that said, We managed to get a lot of work done with minimal staffing. Our train crews have done an outstanding job this year as well, a lot of students and a lot of promotions.

So as we focus on the closing months of the 2008 season, We will slowly begin the winter shutdown process and I am hoping to have a catalog of what is available in the gift shift.

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## OPS DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

We had a lot of promotions recently in the Ops Department. Below is a list of those who have met their qualifications.

Spencer Walker - Conductor  
 Rick Gruninger - Fireman  
 Russ Johnson - Fireman  
 David Epling - Passenger Engineer  
 George Sousa - Brakeman  
 Fred Elenbass - Brakeman  
 Bart Hansen - Fireman  
 Bill Parker - Passenger Engineer  
 Charlie "Golden" Spikes - Passenger Engineer  
 Craig Simmons - Yard Engineer / RAL Instructor  
 David "Dynamite" Epling - RAL Instructor  
 Rick Gruninger - Conductor  
 Kevin "Inferno" Caldwell - Brakeman  
 Tim Carter - Brakeman  
 Ethan "Quickdraw" Doty - Brakeman  
 David "Bart" Hansen - Qualified Brakeman

We also picked up a new Ops Volunteer! Bruce Bowman has started as a Student Brakeman.

Our Ops volunteers have been working their butts off to keep the operating department running smoothly this summer.

Congratulations to all of you. If we have left anyone out, it is not intentional.

Great job, guys!

If you would like to join the Operations Crew, contact Loren Ross or one of our Ops Supervisors and attend the training day on Saturday, April 25, 2009!

## MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

- Tom Carter

In late 2007, I was given a new challenge as a member of the FRRS: Members Appreciation Day 2008. Of course, this immediately led to many questions, not the least of which was: What do I DO? Quickly followed by: What does this entail? What kinds of activities do we plan for? What is our budget? How many people show up for these things?

You guessed it, I had never planned anything more than an adolescent house party prior to my significant other Alicia and I taking on this task. Luckily, we had some great help; otherwise we would have had a couple of kegs of beer and an obnoxious selection of music played above the level of ear pain!

Planning started in November of 2007 with a breakfast meeting between Alicia, Wayne Monger, Matt Parker and myself prior to the Board of Directors meeting that afternoon in Lathrop. At that point, I walked away from the meeting with a better understanding and idea of what was required and expected: An event to make the membership of the Feather River Rail Society feel welcome at their museum and to showcase the hard work of the men and women keeping the Western Pacific alive in Portola

With the assistance of Russ & Cheri Johnson, the Epling and family, Linda Knudson, Eugene Vicknair, Tim and Dustin Carter, Gail McClure, Wayne Monger, and Matt and Stephanie Parker, we set out to balance children's activities & games, activities for the adults, a delicious barbeque dinner and a relaxed atmosphere in conjunction with the annual elections announcement and membership meeting. Alicia and I were pleasantly surprised with the turnout, as it was our goal to meet as many new faces in the membership as possible and to show them that their decision to join the Feather