

## SANTA TRAIN 2009

- David Epling, Museum Manager

Another Christmas season has come and gone and, once again, the WPRM hosted Santa Trains on the first two Saturdays in December. The Museum received a lot of support this year from the community. Several businesses donated money to help us offset the costs of putting on the event. Portola High School's cooking class made the cookies this year.

Every November, WPRM Yardmaster / FRRS VP Steve Habeck begins setting up the trains for the event. Set-up volunteers Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes and his son, Bart Hansen, Kevin Arendt, Ed Powell, Duane Vanderveen, Mary Habeck, Kathy Habeck, Jennifer Habeck, Kevin Errcart, Vicki Krois and her boyfriend (with my apologies to Vicki as I cannot remember his name), Bruce Veilleux and Vicki Epling dug all the supplies and decorations out and got everything inside the baggage car and other areas decorated for the big show. If I have left any names out, you have my apologies now.

We moved the gift shop into the Sacramento Northern 1642 caboose as it could be heated. FRRS members Kevin & Janet Arendt set up a bake sale in the caboose as well, they donated the baked goods and gave the museum the proceeds.

For the first weekend, on Saturday the 5th, the crowds were heavy and Mother Nature obliged us with a nice blanket of snow on the first night, adding to the snow already on the ground. Watching Duane Vanderveen with a snow shovel is like watching a one-man bulldozer. Toss in occasional light flurries the mood was set. Our Operating Department once again demonstrated why we are the class act in the Railroad Museum community. They were outstanding in their operation of the lighted and decorated train itself, which always functions as the star of this show. The crowds were large and steady enough that the train was in a constant load and go cycle.

The Second week was a lot more of a challenge: between the two Saturdays, Mother Nature unloaded a series of snowstorms that had us all



*The 2009 edition of the Santa Train prepares for another run.  
- Tom Carter photo*