

inspection. Related to this, track work on the damaged balloon has been severely hampered by the extremely hot, dry weather this summer. Every day seems to be in the 90's, little or no wind, and no clouds, making track work essentially impossible after about 10 AM. Several of our diehard volunteers have attempted to get work done, despite the hot conditions, such as Greg Elems, Bil Jackson, Charlie Spikes, Loren Ross, and Ethan Doty. Don Nelson just spent a long week with us, running the backhoe every day, most of the day, and again in the evening, digging out trenches for old tie removal and new tie insertion, and actually removed most of the bad ties, and got all the staged new ones inserted. The amount of work he got done was phenomenal, especially given the brutal conditions. I want this effort recognized, and everyone made aware of it. On top of that, he plans on coming back near the end of July/early August to do it again! With what Don got done, there's plenty of setting/spiking/tamping/aligning for the rest of us to get done before he comes back; see Roadmaster Greg Elems for the work plans and times. I would like to see us get the railroad back in service by Railroad Days, if at all possible. Pray for a break in the weather.

Speaking of Railroad Days, I am already attending regular meetings of the Railroad Days Committee, planning for the event on August 25-27. As in the past, we will run trains on Friday, 8/25, as normal (admission and fares charged), and on Saturday and Sunday (8/26 – 8/27), with free Museum admission, and normal fares for train rides. We are also holding a raffle for the custom quilt on display in the WP Store, with the drawing on Railroad Days. Raffle ticket sales, however, have been very slow. We plan on having model railroads set up in the shop, Gary Van Treese back on the dock with his live-steam G-scale, and a demonstration of Fairmont one-cylinder engines (one-lungers) out front, by one of Fritz Elems' instructors from the Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). We also need to provide the "Kluge" as motive power for the people-mover tram between the Museum and the City Park. It looks like the Portola Firefighters and their Auxiliary may provide most of the manpower for the tram this year, at least so far. We should also have UP Heritage units

## Fritz On The Job



Sunday, 29 April 2017, saw a slightly breezy, cool day at the Western Pacific Railroad Museum. The day's task: apply paint to the handbrake chains of select museum equipment to allow crew to easily determine whether the brake is tied.

In addition to the handbrake chains, other safety appliances were also painted bright white to assist with visibility.

Above, we see Fritz applying bright white paint to the cut lever of a gondola, with his signature expression. Below, the finished product.

