

Roadmaster's Report – October 2017

–Greg Elems, Director/Roadmaster

Cold temps have settled into Portola now. Track work has slowed down to once a week with interruptions due to aches and pains and or travel. Not much to report since the last board meeting but work on tamping has continued. One more switch frog will probably get tamped before the end of work season. About 50-70 feet of track has been tamped where low and or soft spots were identified.

At this time, a plan on tie replacement on two switches on the west side of the shop has been decided upon. Next spring when the weather allows and the ground isn't a muddy mess we will replace one frog and approximately a dozen ties. Once that is done tie replacement will continue on the balloon track and work our way to Milward switch. Some ties will also be laid out for the display track as we sort through them. Tamping will continue out on the balloon as time allows, i.e. RAL's not running.

Over all I feel we had a good season of track work even after getting the balloon open for regular operations. This last month a core group of Loren Ross and Ethan Doty have stepped up to the plate in the track work. Bil Jackson has been a help also but his efforts have been directed to the mechanical end of things of late. A big THANK YOU goes out to them for all their help.

Museum Web Page Update – August 2017

–Paul Finnegan, Webmaster

As I am writing this article, 2017 RR Days is history and we are rapidly approaching the end of our 2017 Summer Season at the museum. It has been a busy one with extensive track work completed needed because of the devastating 2016-17 winter storms, several special events, major work by our Mechanical Department, improvements in the Museum Store, many visitors and caring for our RAL clients.

One of my major goals for the web site is to keep our members and the public up-to-date on the things happening at the museum. Over the

course of the season I made regular announcements in the *Latest Museum News Update* column that appears on the home pages and the web cam page. Between May 1st and today, August 30th, I made 45 updates to the *Latest Museum News Update* column.

Working with Eugene Vicknair, Michael Clawson and Patty Clawson, I created and posted a news item about Julia Pagan's visit to the museum on July 8th. You can see it on the "News Archive" page under the "News" pull-down menu. It highlighted an important artifact, the WP 106, "Charles O Sweetwood" Red Cross Blood donation car, in our collection.

Along with the other "Latest News" events chronicled on the "News Archive" page, there was a web page reflecting the extensive track restoration project spearheaded by our Roadmaster, Greg Elems. It was regularly updated with photos and notes as the work progressed over the summer.

To remind us of earlier days in our society, Lew Bernard gave me a video for posting of his "So you want to go to Truckee!!" video documenting the 2002 Truckee RR Days equipment move. I added it to the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery under the "About Us" pull-down menu.

To improve communication between the Board of Directors and the membership we have created, and have continued to populate, a new web page "Minutes & Reports" on the Members pull-down menu. Now everyone has easy and timely access to the minutes and reports from the monthly Board of Directors Meetings. It goes back to mid-2012.

I am continuing to try and expand our collection pages about our equipment and other artifacts at the museum. In Train Sheet 173 I asked for rail fans to join me in this effort. The offer is still open. I am looking for volunteers to adopt a piece of equipment and do the research to help me either create a new collection page or expand an existing page with more information or stories. A particular piece I would like to create a page for is for the WPMW 71, a.k.a. the weed burner. Our caboose train goes right by it and many visitors ask about it. I have not been

able to locate any information about it. Do you know anything about it, or want to take on the challenge of being a historical detective? If so, please contact me!

To help our web users locate information in the Train Sheet archive, I configured a second Google Custom Search Engine that searches only the Train Sheets in the archive. It is on the "Train Sheet Archive" web page on the "News" pull-down menu.

Museum Web Page Update – Oct 2017

–Paul Finnegan, Webmaster

Since my last report, the museum has hosted major events that I kept the public and membership informed about with entries in the *Latest Museum News* column on the web site and event specific news item pages.

A truly amazing event was held at the museum on Saturday September 9th – the re-dedication of the "Charles O Sweetwood", WP 106 business car. The event was very well attended and a news item article about it can be found on the web site under the News > News Archive pull-down menu entry. On that page are several links to other pages and photographs about the car – both historic and current day.

In October the museum hosted the second annual *Pumpkin Patch Express* trains. There is a news article about it on the News Archive page. Additionally there are photos from the event in a photo gallery under the About Us > WPRM Photo & Video Gallery web page. Greg Elems contributed some really outstanding photos from both weekends to complement the photos I took the first weekend.

Kerry Cochran and I have been working together over the summer on adding material to the Historical/Archive Department's pages under the Museum > Historical/Archive Department pull-down menu. Under the "History of the FRRS" section there is a new web page that contains information about all of the past conventions hosted by the FRRS. Under the "WP Reference Material" section a new page "WP Documents" has been added. It contains a wide variety of material published by or about the WP. I invite you to visit the new pages and see what we have posted to help preserve the history of the Western Pacific Railroad.

I am always looking for feedback, content and new ideas. If you have some, please don't hesitate to contact me at webmaster@wplives.org.



WP 805A sits on the west end of Track 4 on 21 October 2017, lit by the backup light on the Pumpkin Patch Express. Night runs were a popular addition this year.

–Greg Elems Photo.