

Once again, I must express my thanks to all those people that make this place run on a daily basis: Ethan Doty, Charlie Spikes, Bil Jackson, Duane Vander Veen, Loren Ross, David (Fritz) Elems, Greg Elems, and Jean and KC in the WP Store. I just haven't been able to be here anywhere near as much as I feel I should be, but these people are getting it done.

Paul Finnegan's work with the website must also be recognized, even if he is a nuisance about getting updates to him. Eugene Vicknair has broadened our exposure with his efforts, and is always looking outside the box. Kerry Cochran and Paul Finnegan are also finishing up a 10-day stint at the Museum, reminding themselves that there is no end to the work around here. My deepest gratitude to all, named and unnamed, with no slight intended if I missed you.

## Superintendent of Ops Report—Spring 2018

—Loren Ross, Sup. of Operations

After a fairly mild winter, the Western Pacific RR Museum is again open for business!! Over the winter, I was involved in planning for this year's events, starting with Crew Training. So far we have 23 folks signed up for this year's training. There are a lot of new things added this year, with some new bulletins and operational plans for all to learn. I'm really looking forward to the training sessions! Paul Finnegan has offered to provide a BBQ lunch for the students, so don't worry about bringing anything for lunch.

We've also begun operating RAL's. There is still a maximum track speed of 5 MPH, especially on the balloon loop, as there is still a fair amount of track work needed to get things back to 100%. Roadmaster Greg Elems will be scheduling some track work days, and it would be great if everyone could come and help with this much



Norm Holmes was able to attend the Light the Fire Fundraising Dinner.

—Greg Elems Photo.

needed repair work. If we can get 7 or 8 folks to come up together, we can get almost all the major repairs completed in 2 or 3 days. There are at least a dozen ties to be replaced on the balloon, and we need to remove and replace the broken frog at the West #1 switch.

Last year, I assigned Ethan Doty to the position of RAL Scheduler, and I asked him to find a way to “fix” the problems we’ve had with scheduling engineers for the RAL’s. Well, Ethan came on strong and created an on-line scheduling calendar that all the engineers can review 24/7 from home and can also sign up for RAL operations. It’s been in place for a month now, and seems to be working very well. For the most part, we have 5 full time RAL engineers who are working hard to cover all the shifts. Craig Simmons has been handling all Sunday Monday rentals, Charlie Spikes has been handling Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Bil Jackson has been

handling Friday, and Ethan and I have been trying to cover the rest. We are going to lose Craig for a few months this summer, so if there is another engineer out there who can step up and help cover his days it would be extremely helpful. Please contact myself or Ethan if you have work with us.

Finally, I would like to thank and commend Mr. Paul Finnegan (with help from son Kenneth too) on the new museum web site. Paul has created some amazing new features including an online Conductor Report, all museum bulletins, and a list of technical job descriptions for every single position at the museum, all available to everyone to read at any time. More of these changes will be explained at the Crew Training, so don’t miss it!

See you there!!



Crew members for the Caboose Train on 8 July, 2018. Left to Right: Ed Powell, Bil '1L' Jackson, Loren Ross, Greg Elems.

—David Elems Photo.