

Motorcars Come to Plumas County

- Eugene Vicknair

On the weekend of May 13 – 14, members of the West Coast Railroaders Group (WCRG) motorcar association made a visit to Plumas County to run on the Quincy Railroad and give visitors to the museum an experience riding these historic pieces of maintenance of way equipment.

The weekend started in Quincy, where the cars set on at the Sierra Pacific Lumber Mill. Joined by Jesse Buus, one of the Quincy Railroad crew members, the group did 4 round trips from the mill to Quincy Jct. in beautiful weather. During the first run, a group of deer scampered across the tracks, while the return trip was graced by a pair of sandhill cranes gallivanting through a meadow.

I had to drop off after the 3rd trip to head to Portola and the FRRS monthly Board Meeting. To thank the motorcar operators for coming to the museum that weekend, I agreed to make dinner Saturday night. By 7:30 p.m., everyone had assembled in the *Silver Debris* for a spaghetti and meatball meal with parmesan corn, mixed salad and garlic bread.

On Sunday, following a tour of the museum collection, the crew operated around the balloon track from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., giving visitors to the museum free rides and showing them how to operate the little cars while also explaining their history. The event was a hit with the visitors and many had come specifically because they heard the cars would be running. Everyone agreed it was a great event and plans are being discussed to repeat it this fall. Watch the *Train Sheet* and the website for more info as it becomes available.

Special thanks to WCRG President Ken Marty and WCRG Manager of Operating Practices Matt Parker, both also FRRS members, for making these events possible and thank you to Sierra Pacific and the Quincy Railroad for the Saturday operations.



The group pauses for a photo on the Quincy bridge over Greenhorn Creek.

Photo by Ken Marty



The motors loaded on the main lead in clear view of the parking lot, attracting a lot of attention from visitors right away.

Photo by Ken Marty