

Departure Steve Hayes

- Kerry Cochran

Past member and Convention Chairman, Stephen M. Hayes departed September 6, 2023.

Growing up in Hayward, California in the 1950s, Steve lived within a stone's throw of the Western Pacific mainline and remembers watching the trains while walking to school. From this experience an abiding love of trains evolved, leading to a lifelong interest in railroads and a collection of American Flyer trains. Steve purchased his first Flyer set in 1953, gathering an entire garage full of old newspapers to raise the money. It probably cost the Hayes family almost as much to deliver them to the recyclers!



He was an avid modeler and created a HO model railroad in his basement of the Western Pacific Railroad. He held open house for the NRMA events and meets along with several operating sessions with fellow modelers. He was very active in the model community and worked with several modeler in the Sonora – Twain Harte California area.

For nine years Steve served as the convention coordinator for the Feather River Historical Society. During this time he saw that the history of the structures on the Western Pacific was being neglected. There were some photographs in existing books but very little other information. He wrote, *Western Pacific Depots and Stations* to fill that void. After five years of research, and many trips across the railroad's territory, Steve's first book presents the most complete history of the depots of the Western Pacific Railroad published to date.

**Departure Steve Miller**

Steve Miller passed 6/24/23. He was a valued club member at the La Mesa Model Railroad Club in San Diego and a member of the FRRS. Steve was the dinner speaker at the joint Western Pacific Historical Convention with Pacific Coast Region NMRA in Sacramento April 26 – April 30, 2023.

A Celebration of Life for him was held Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the Western Railway Museum, Suisun City, California.

Departure Stephen Pettitt

We received notice about the passing of FRRS international member Stephen Pettitt of the United Kingdom.

Departure Tom Graham

We received notice about the passing of FRRS Family Life member Tom Graham on May 19, 2023.

At a young age, Tom was fascinated by trains. This railroad enthusiasm led to his involvement in the preservation of railroad history. He visited railroad museums and went on train excursions all over the Pacific Northwest. He was a very active member of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California. He worked his way up through the many jobs - conductor, brakeman, fireman, and finally yard engineer. He loved operating that big diesel locomotive, pulling railcars around the yard at the museum.