



THE TRAIN SHEET

News from the Feather River Rail Society



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"

Issue - 199

October/November/December 2023

President's Pin

- Greg Elems
12/14/23



This will be my last President's Pin for the year of 2023. With that in mind, I would like to wish everyone a happy holiday season. We are bringing the 2023 season to a close with our long running tradition of Santa and a train ride. Our first Saturday was very successful in three ways. First, we had a great turnout, second everything on the train looked good and finally, the cookies were delicious. The second weekend was even better. We had to make a store run to resupply our hot chocolate and cookies. We ended our second weekend of Santa and Trains with pizza. With two weekends under our belt, I'm looking forward to our last weekend.

Even in this joyous time of year, we have had some sadness also. We lost our founding member Norman Holmes on November 12, 2023. Be sure to check out our web page for Norm's departure on the society's website.

While I never worked with Norman on the Union Pacific proper, I did work with him at the museum. I consider it an honor to have done so. I would be visiting the museum and Norman would wrangle me into helping with switching at odd times. I was working out of Portola in 1986 as a brakeman and occasionally had to fill my time between runs so I'd check out the museum.

We also lost Jim Lekas on November 27, 2023. Jim was looking forward to authoring a book about the WP's lost railroad under the waters

(continued on page 7)

Departure - Norm Holmes 1927 - 2023



Norm Holmes passed away peacefully at home with his family on Sunday, November 12, 2023.

Norm began his year-round employment with the Western Pacific Railroad in 1953. He worked switching and locals in the San Francisco Bay Area. He made 90 round trips on the *California Zephyr*, being promoted to engineer in 1959.

Norm decided to move to Portola with his family in 1970. They bought 15 acres of pine forested land and built a home in 1971. He lived there until it became necessary to move to Carson City, Nevada for health care.

The Western Pacific was absorbed into the Union Pacific System on December 22, 1982. In an attempt to preserve some of the equipment from the WP, Norm Holmes organized the Feather River Rail Society. He arranged for UP to donate a "covered wagon", WP 921D streamline diesel locomotive, for preservation at Portola. The unit was formally presented to the Greater Portola (now Eastern Plumas) Chamber of Commerce at the Feather River Railroad Days in August 1983.

Norm was elected to the Board of Directors and became FRRS President in February 1984.

Shortly thereafter, the FRRS became a nonprofit corporation. A new museum was created, the Portola Railroad Museum. Under Norm's leadership the museum grew from literally an empty building to what it is today, the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola.

(continued on page 3...)

-THE TRAIN SHEET-

Issue 199 - October/November/December 2023
 Published January 2, 2024
 News from the Feather River Rail Society and the
 Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola

Editor - Paul Finnegan
 Email: trainsheet@wplives.org

Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of March, June,
 September and December.

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**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY
 WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD
 MUSEUM at PORTOLA**

PO BOX 608, Portola, CA 96122-0608

Museum Phone: (530) 832-4131
 Fax: (530) 832-1854

2024 Hours starting 5/2/24:
 Thursdays & Fridays Noon - 4 PM
 Saturdays & Sundays 10 AM - 5 PM

If you wish to visit during the closure period, it is
 advisable to call in advance
 and find out if the museum will be open.

Entrance to the museum for members is free. Non-
 members are required to pay an admission fee.

The Feather River Rail Society, a tax-exempt public
 benefit California corporation, is the historical society for
 the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Western
 Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California.

**The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific
 Railroad.**

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774
 Member of the Heritage Rail Alliance

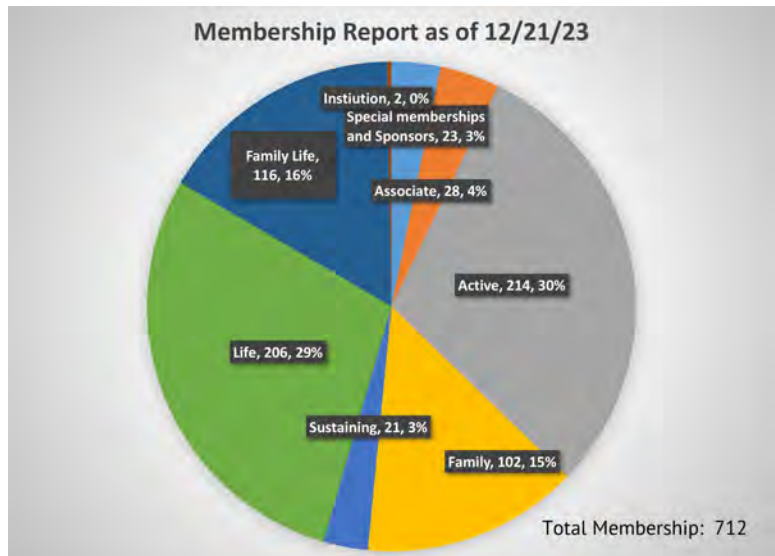


- BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS -

Greg Elems - President, Director	president@wplives.org
Steve Habeck - VP, Director	vpresident@wplives.org
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Matt Elems - Director	melems@wplives.org
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Table of Contents – Issue 199

President's Pin	1
Departure - Norm Holmes 1927 - 2023	1
Membership Report	2
November 2023 WPRM Track Work	3
FRRS Website 2023 Update	4
2024 Election	5
Election Policy Changes	5
Meeting our Mission Statement Feather River Rail Society	6
Sponsors	6
2024 Operating Department Crew Training	7
Departure Jim Lekas	7
2024 WP Historic Convention - Oroville, Ca.	8
2024 Convention Car	11
Pumpkin Express 2023	12
Santa Trains 2023	13
Departments and Committees	14
Western Pacific Railroad Museum Events Feed the Community	15



- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -

FRRS Official Site	www.WPLives.org
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net
California Zephyr	californiazephyr.org
Western Pacific Pages	www.WPLives.com
WP Virtual Museum	wpmuseum.railfan.net
Tidewater Southern Pages	www.TidewaterSouthern.com
Central California Traction	www.trainweb.org/tractionco

November 2023 WPRM Track Work

- Roger Stabler

In the last few years, several FRRS members were able to work with him to create articles for the WESTERN PACIFIC Headlight magazine, the society's journal of WP history. It includes articles of interest for modelers and those wishing to know more of the historical aspects of the Western Pacific and subsidiary roads.

One of Norm's greatest adventures was when he returned to the museum in 2022 during the WP convention, and was an engineer on the restored WP 165 steam locomotive.

We will all miss the founding father of the Feather River Rail Society.

There will be a Celebration of Life for Norm and Barbara after museum closing on May 25, 2024.



FRRS Founder Norm Holmes ready to run WP 165

- Photo by Kerry Cochran 5/15/2022



I have spent several weeks doing track work at the museum with the help of David Elems, Greg Elems, Charlie Spikes, Hank Stiles and Dwayne Vander Veen. The Balloon Track and the East Lead have been tamped and surfaced from the Edenwold Crossing to about 100 feet east of the back gate and fence area. Loren Ross helped for a couple of days on the tamping of track east of the sewer crossing. The worst of the elevation and cross level issues in the Balloon Track have been eliminated.

The tamper suffered a bearing failure in the main generator that powers the work heads, so until I get it repaired tamping anymore track will have to wait.

We replaced the headblock ties and switch ties to the heel block in the rip track switch and put new ties in the heel block of the junction switch. I plan to do some more tie work in the junction switch weather permitting.



Above: Roger Stabler spiking ties in the Rip Switch - Photo by Greg Elems 11/16/23

Left: David Elems spiking the switch stand on the Rip Switch - Photo by Roger Stabler 11/15/23

2022 Top Web Pages

Total pageviews in 2022 = 168,966

	Pageviews	%
WPRM Home	29,735	17.6%
WPRM Webcam	23,058	13.6%
WPRM Santa Trains	5,920	3.5%
WPRM RAL	5,272	3.1%
SN Home Page	4,778	2.8%
Pumpkin Trains 2022	4,738	2.8%
WPRM Collection	4,308	2.5%
2022 Convention	3,808	2.3%
Visit Us	2,453	1.5%
Live Steam July 2-3	2,396	1.4%
WPRM Trainride	2,052	1.2%
WPRM Locomotives	1,930	1.1%
Shop	1,673	1.0%
WPRM Archives	1,534	0.9%
WPRM Steam	1,534	0.9%
Live Steam Sep 3-4	1,188	0.7%
Press release 6/17	1,150	0.7%

2023 Top Web Pages

Total pageviews in 2023 = 177,447

	Pageviews	%
WPRM Home	28249	15.9
WPRM Webcam	23060	13.0
Pumpkin Trains 2023	5198	2.9
Santa Trains 2023	4976	2.8
WPRM RAL	4254	2.4
SN Home Page	3392	1.9
2023 Oct Motorcars	2785	1.6
WPRM Trainride	2736	1.5
2023 Convention	2594	1.5
WPRM Visit Us	2526	1.4
SN Home Page	2235	1.3
WPRM-Collection	2121	1.2
WP 165 Operations	1986	1.1
2023 1M Grant	1933	1.1
WPRM Locomotives	1925	1.1
2023 WP Celebration	1745	1.0
Extra Board	1530	0.9

FRRS Website 2023 Update

- Paul Finnegan, FRRS/WPRM Webmaster

The society’s website, WPLives.org, continues to be a resource of information about the FRRS and the WPRM for both the public and our members. Website traffic increased 5% from 2022 to 2023. We currently have 6,065 web pages on the website. Additionally there are over 57,591 photos and 10,265 PDF files posted.

- In 2023 we continued to add material and tools to the website. A great deal of new material was added to the Historical/Archive section.
- In addition to our website, we also have a YouTube channel "FRRS WPRM" that has 97 videos and 338 subscribers
- We maintain the Google Search Results for WPRM
- We maintain the Yelp Page for WPRM
- Use use a email subscription tool to send bulk email to "FRRS Board Meeting Material (24)", "FRRS WPRM Volunteers (60)" and "WPRM News (493)" lists.

Catch the Early Train!

*Get your Train Sheet by email and you will get it before the post office even receives it and it is in COLOR!
(and you save the FRRS money too!)*

*Send an email requesting email delivery to **membership@wplives.org** with your name and email address.*



2024 FRRS Board of Directors Election

- Matthew S. Shuman

Yet again a post COVID operational year for the FRRS has passed and we are moving forward with the 2024 election and the Election Committee is ready to serve again for the 2024 elections.

The three upcoming seats, presently being held by Matt Elems, Steve Habeck and Eugene Vicknair, are available for the June 2024 FRRS election. Nominations will open from January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024. Nominations can be submitted by voting members of FRRS (IN WRITING) to the Nomination and Election Committee or personally delivered to the Election Committee. Email is an accepted form of written communication for the FRRS. Nominations received earlier than January 1, 2024, will not be accepted and will be rejected. Nominations received later than January 31, 2024, will not be accepted and will be rejected.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older who has been a FRRS member of a voting membership unit in good standing for a minimum of one (1) year at the date of the election or appointment shall be eligible to election or appointment as a director.

Please be sure to read the Election Policy at the bottom of the Membership web page (membership.WPLives.org) for additional dates and details if you might be interested in running for the FRRS Board in the 2024. If you have any questions about the election process, please feel free to contact the FRRS Elections Committee at election@wplives.org.

If you have an e-mail address the FRRS and WPRM would like to have it for multiple reasons including news announcements, elections, Train Sheet delivery by e-mail and more. You may update your contact information here Membership Change of Address in the middle of the Membership web page (membership.WPLives.org). These are used exclusively for the FRRS and WPRM, and will not be sold or given out.

Election Policy Changes

The FRRS recently updated the Election Policy. The changes are indicated below. The full text is available in the middle of the Membership web page (membership.WPLives.org).

(G) Ballots shall be mailed by the committee on or before the 3rd Monday of April to paid members in good standing, as of the 28th of February. *All ballots will be mailed via First Class Mail to the membership with "Return Service Requested."*

(P) Should a re-count be requested by a candidate, the Nomination and Elections Committee shall consult with the FRRS Board of Directors as to the process to be used. This may be just a general re-count and/or if necessary, the FRRS Board of Directors may advise the Nomination and Elections Committee to use a third party for the recount. *Persons requesting the recount will be responsible for all costs (if any) involved to the society to perform the recount.*

~~(Z) No cumulative voting for members of the FRRS Board of Directors shall be permitted.~~

~~If at the end of the nomination period the number of nominees equals the number of open positions, commonly known as a white ballot, the following shall occur:~~

~~a) The voting members of the corporation shall be notified in writing that a white ballot exists.~~

~~b) The member notification shall contain instruction for petitioning, in writing, the FRRS Board of Directors to conduct a write-in campaign.~~

~~c) Petitions shall be accepted during the period set aside for the acceptance of candidate statements.~~

~~d) The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for verifying the petition submitter is qualified to hold the position of director.~~

(AA) If a white ballot exists at the end of the period for candidate statement submission, then the nominees shall be considered elected and the membership notified of the election results *electronically and via the Train Sheet and the FRRS/WPRM website.*

Meeting our Mission Statement Feather River Rail Society

- Kerry Cochran
Archive Manager

In our mission statement we make the statement: "The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."

Within the policy of the mission statement there are several "Mission Goals" such as:

- Museum Services
- Historical/Archive Department
- Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola
- Museum Store Operations
- Human Resources/Volunteer Services

During the last few years, we have expanded the services that the Historical/Archive Department has offered and several members and groups have taken advantage of these services.

Back in October 2022, we were contacted by documentary filmmaker Rowan Kinnane, from Tasmania, Australia. He informed us about several video projects that he was working on. One of those was the Flying Scotsman's visit to the USA. He was interested on the trip of the Flying Scotsman across the Altamont Pass. He had looked at our website and found photos in our collection that he wanted to use.

During our yearlong exchange of emails and discussions on the Flying Scotsman, we exchanged several messages and photos along with some videos that were in our collection. Thanks to Ken Meeker and Virgil Staff's collections, we were able to find several items that were very useful to the project.

In my last communications with Rowan, he indicated the production of the documentary would be released in 2024. Once it is released, we will get a link posted to the FRRS website for our members to view.

One of the other requests we received this year (2023) was from a writer, Patrick Hiatte for the heritage column for the Cowcatcher magazine. He is writing a column for the magazine on the California Zephyr and was looking for some photos of the Western Pacific. After several exchanges, we were able to set up a photo request and he indicated what photos he would like to use from our collection. Our webmaster, Paul Finnegan, set up a download link and we were able to place a set of photos in a folder for Patrick to download the photos. When the article is published, we will be sent a couple of copies of the magazine so we can see the pending articles.

Both of these projects were approved by the Archive Manager. Credit for the photos and videos will be given to the Feather River Rail Society/Western Pacific Railroad Museum.

I want to thank all the members of the Historical/Archive Department on the help and to show how we are meeting our mission statement on providing educational support to the general public.

Museum Sponsors

The Western Pacific played a major role in developing the economy of Plumas County and the surrounding region. The Western Pacific Railroad Museum is proud to be a part of that heritage and to hold a position in supporting the ongoing economic health of our community. We welcome the support of that community in return. We ask our members and visitors to support our business sponsors, companies who have generously contributed to the museum and its mission to preserve the Western Pacific family.



H&R BLOCK®

DAVID HANSEN - SUSANVILLE

H & R Block - David Hansen

2850 Main St Ste 7, Susanville, CA 96130
Tel: 530-257-9339

2024 Operating Department Crew Training

- Kerry Cochran
General Superintendent

Crew training will be held on May 4th, 2024, starting at 10 a.m. at the museum. Please register for crew training and complete the online rules exam before attending the crew training day on the society's website. There may be another crew training day scheduled, if necessary, so please watch for any announcements.

I want to invite all FRRS members to become a member of the Operating Department and give us a hand operating the caboose trains at the museum for the general public. We also need crew year-round to move equipment at the museum for display and maintenance. Additionally we need crews for our Pumpkin Express and Santa Trains events.



I would also like to have all of the current Operating Department crew members check their calendars and see if they can volunteer at least one or two days a month during the 2024 operating season. "Many hands make light work" certainly applies to running our museum. By working together we can provide a safe, enjoyable experience for our guests and other members.

All of our time is valuable and I certainly appreciate all your help. However, we need to staff the caboose trains for our visiting public and we need to make sure that we can operate with a full crew each summer weekend.

There may be questions along the way so please send email to me at operating_dept@wplives.org and tell me what weekends you may be able to commit to volunteer. If you have any other comments, please tell me so I may be able to address them.

(... President's Pin continued from page 1)

behind the Oroville Dam and other local rail-roading history. I never met him but heard all about him and his knowledge and enthusiasm for the WP.

The FRRS as a whole will feel these losses and as FRRS President I want to pass on my condolences to all the family and friends of our departed brothers in the WPRM family.

Departure Jim Lekas

- Jim Atkins
Archive Staff

I received sad news today that my good friend and fellow railfan Jim Lekas passed today at age 87 in Winchester, Virginia, where he was living with his son. Jim was in the hospital after a fall.



Jim at a recent game night with his family.

- Kevin Lekas

A longtime member of the FRRS, He contributed many materials for Ken Rattenne's Feather River Route books and several other books on railroads.

He was an avid Western Pacific Railroad fan and his knowledge of the Feather River Canyon was next to the best of the WP engineers that ran over the line.

The museum just started working with him on a new book project. We hope that we can continue on the book project in his memory.

2024 WP Historic Convention - Oroville, Ca.

- Kerry Cochran
Convention Co-chair

The FRRS/WPRM 2024 Convention is being held in Oroville, California, on April 11th, 12th and 13th, 2024. The event will be held at the Feather Falls Casino and Lodge, 3 Alverda Drive, Oroville, California, 95966.

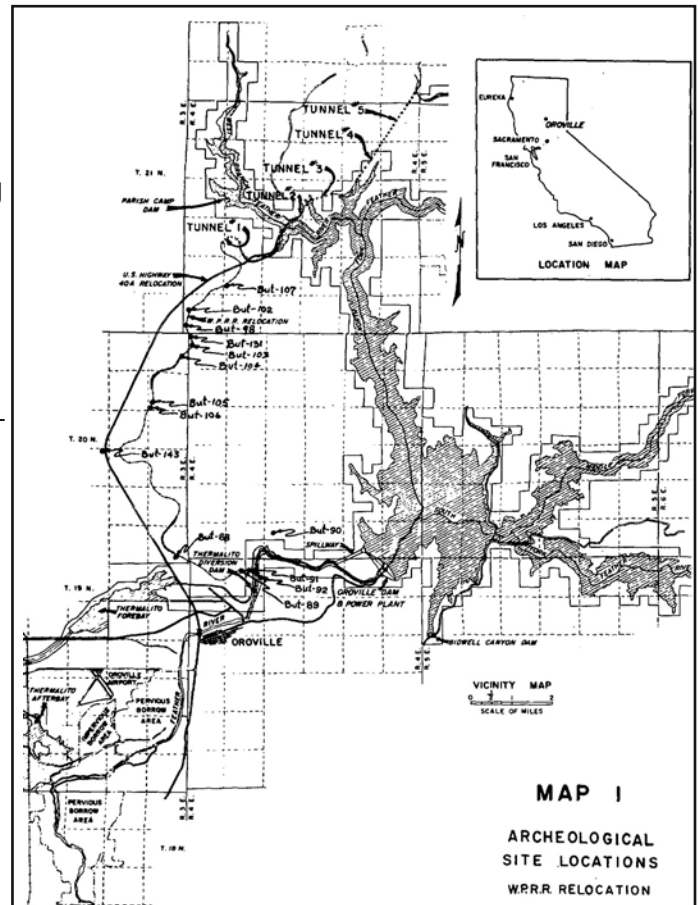
In returning to the "Gateway to the Feather River Canyon", hopefully this will give our attendees an opportunity to see the Oroville area. There is a lot of railroad history in the area.

We need help with all aspects of the convention, so please think about giving us a hand. We need volunteers to help with setup, registration, the store, hosting presentations, cleanup and a bunch of other things!

We are looking for presenters and presentations for the 2024 convention. Please volunteer to give a presentation on a Western Pacific Railroad, Sacramento Northern Railroad or Tidewater Southern Railroad subject, molding of any of the three railroads or a subject that has ties to any of the railroads.

Please let the convention staff know if you can help out as a convention volunteer or as a presenter. Please send us an email at convention@WPLives.org to volunteer or if you have other questions or comments.

We have not scheduled all the programs for the convention yet, please watch the FRRS website and publications for updates. You can view the convention page at convention.WPLives.org.



The Saturday night banquet speaker has not been arranged as of this date. Currently we are planning on a buffet style banquet for the dinner Saturday night.

For those convention goers who enjoy model-layout tours, we have not been able to confirm any layout tours in the area yet. We working to see what can be arranged, please watch the website for more information.

The FRRS web page for the convention will be updated as more information becomes available and convention schedules are finalized. Online registration can also be done there.

Should you have any questions, please contact Eugene Vicknair or Kerry Cochran You can always send a message via the convention team's email address: convention@WPLives.org.

The Feather River Rail Society is pleased to announce the...

2024 Western Pacific Historical Convention



75th Anniversary of the *California Zephyr*

April 11-14, 2024 - Thursday-Sunday

Hosted by the Feather Falls Casino and Lodge
located in Oroville, California - 3 Alverda Drive 95966

Featuring...

- Historic and Modeling Clinics
- Rare Films from the Virgil Staff Collection
- Vendors and Special Guests
- Saturday night Banquet Speaker: to be announced
- Archive and Photo Exhibits
- Fundraising Prize Raffle
- Buffet Banquet Saturday Night

All proceeds benefit the FRRS Archives and the Arthur Walter Keddie Railroad Library

Presentations and special events to be announced! Watch the convention.WPLives.org webpage for updates and banquet info.

Fares...

Pre-Registration fares ending April 1, 2024	<u>FRRS Members</u>	<u>Affiliate Groups</u>	<u>Non-members</u>
Combo Fare (convention and buffet banquet)	\$95	\$100	\$105
Convention only	\$52	\$57	\$62
Buffet banquet only (available until April 1 only)	\$54	\$59	\$64
<small>see convention website for details</small>			
Convention only (available April 2-10, online only)	\$56	\$61	\$66
Convention only at the door	\$60	\$65	\$70

note: No charge for non-rail spouses to attend the convention, but they need to be registered and have paid fare to attend clinics, banquet and some special events.

AFFILIATE GROUPS: Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society, Nevada-California-Oregon Railway, Black Butte Center for RR Culture and Bay Area Electric RR Association members who are not also FRRS members pay this price.

Register on-line at convention.WPLives.org or mail payments to: WP Historical Convention 2024, 20212 Sears Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561-6824 (NOTE: no mailed payments after April 1, 2024)

Discount rooms available at Feather Falls Lodge for Convention - see convention.WPLives.org for pricing
To reserve call (530) 533-3885 and ask for Ext 7820 - code **2402Feathe** - Lodge also has RV Park

MODELERS - don't forget to enter our model exhibition and contest. Bring your WP / SN / TS / CCT / OT / ABL models.

Non-members wishing to join FRRS can receive a 1 year Active or Family membership for half price plus cost of any non-member fare. As a special bonus, current members wishing to renew their Active or Family memberships can also do so for 50% off (\$25 / \$40 extra) when they register. US members only, Foreign price higher.

Clinic and Event Lineup and more info available at convention.WPLives.org. Final schedule of presentations subject to change.

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2024 Western Pacific Railroad Historical Convention

75th Anniversary of the *California Zephyr*

April 11-14, 2024 - Thursday-Sunday - Hosted by Feather Falls Casino & Lodge, Oroville, CA
 www.featherfallscasino.com - Lodging includes double Queen / King rooms, Suites and RV Park

Convention Pre-registration

Combo Fare (convention + banquet)	qty <input type="checkbox"/>	\$95 - FRRS	qty <input type="checkbox"/>	\$100 - Affiliate	qty <input type="checkbox"/>	\$105 - non-member
Meal special needs: _____						
Convention only	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$52 - FRRS	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$57 - Affilitate	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$62 - non-member
Banquet only (available until April 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$54 - FRRS	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$59 - Affilitate	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$64 - non-member
Meal special needs: _____						
Non-member 1 Year FRRS Active Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25 - new members register at FRRS member price				
Non-member 1 Year FRRS Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40 - new members register at FRRS member price				
FRRS Member Active Renewal Discount	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$25	<i>Membership discounts ONLY valid when combined with Convention registration</i>			
FRRS Member Family Renewal Discount	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$40				
2024 Convention Car - covered hoppper HO scale - details on convention website	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$37.50	SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS! We are working on some special events while we are in Oroville. Watch the convention.WPLives.org webpage for information and registration!			
TOTAL FARE	\$	_____				

Convention Pre-registration ends April 1, 2024 - Register online at convention.WPLives.org or mail payment and this form
note: No charge for non-rail spouses to attend convention, but they need to be registered and have paid fare to attend clinics, banquet and special events.

Attendee Info: name _____ FRRS member # _____
 spouse or guest name _____ *be sure to count their meal choice!*
 mailing address street _____
 city _____ state _____ zip code _____ country _____
 phone number _____ email _____

**Convention
Pre-registration Ends
April 1, 2024**

Payment by CHECK or CREDIT CARD *please circle one* card type MC Visa card number _____
 CCV _____ expiration _____

Mail payments to: WP Historical Convention 2024, 20212 Sears Drive, Tehachapi, CA 93561-6824

Make checks payable to: FRRS or Feather River Rail Society - please note 2024 Convention in memo line
 Online payments only after April 1, 2024. Any questions, please contact the organizers by email at convention@wplives.org.

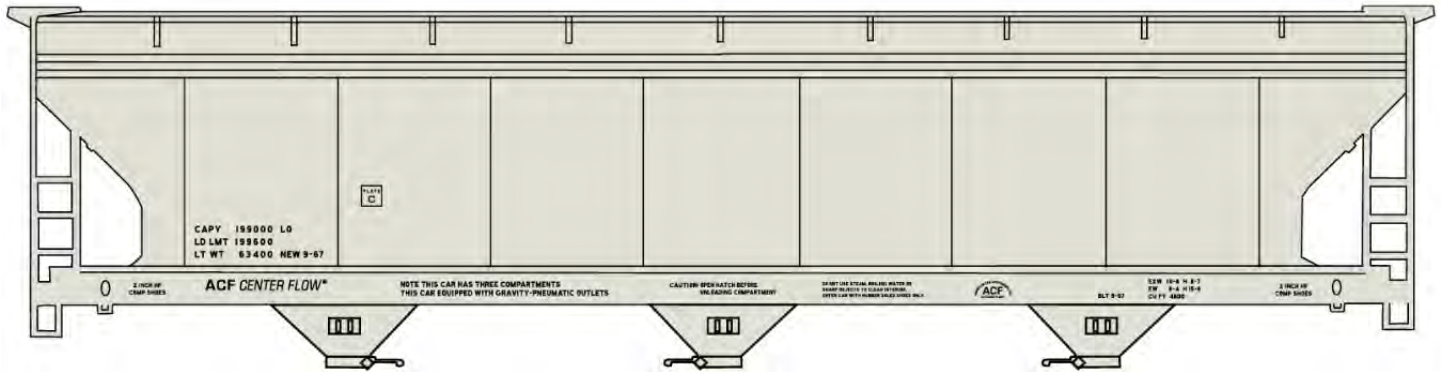
Watch the convention website at **convention.WPLives.org** for updates and additional information!

Kerry Cochran and Eugene Vicknair, Convention Chairs

email - convention@WPLives.org

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2024 WP Convention Car



Center flow covered hoppers built by American Car and Foundry are used for shipping all types of dry commodities. Due to their design they are easy to unload using either discharge gates or pneumatic unloading discharge tubes. Several variations of this car were produced over the years in different lengths and with different hatch covers.

When discussing the car for the 2024 Convention, we decided on the ACF 3-Bay covered hopper. By using custom decals, you could model the car in the WP version or a fantasy version for the Sacramento Northern or the Tidewater Southern.

With some work this model can be modeled after the actual WP car # 11974 in our collection at the museum in Portola.

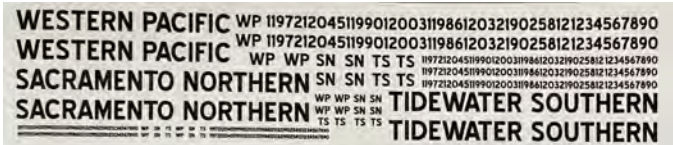
Watch the convention program for a presentation on these cars and modeling them.

Pricing:

One (1) car and one (1) set of decals
\$37.50 when ordered with registration to convention

One (1) car and one (1) set of decals
\$39.50 at convention

Extra decal sheets (if available) \$ 8.50 at convention only



Custom made decals: Use to create a road name of your choice. (Can be used to create a WP road name or a fantasy SN or TS road name.)



WP 11974 is a center flow hopper and is one of the later ones with the billboard WESTERN PACIFIC on the side. Built in 1975 by American Car Foundry, it is a 4,600 cubic foot capacity, three-compartment car with six individual loading 30" hatches on top. It has a load capacity of 198,000 lbs. Union Pacific retired the car and sent it to Jim Dobbas Inc. near Sacramento, presumably for scrapping. This car was purchased by members of the "Western Pacific" Yahoo Group and donated to the museum in 2002.

- Photo by Mike Mucklin

Pumpkin Express 2023

-Eugene John Vicknair

The 2023 Pumpkin Patch Express trains operated on Saturday and Sunday, October 21-22 and 28-29. We saw some very good attendance, particularly on the 2nd weekend, were over 300 cars were admitted over the two days despite threatened and actual rain that forced the Pumpkin Patch indoors.

Southern Pacific GP9 2873, fresh from several years of heavy mechanical work, was operated in multiple with Western Pacific SW1500 1503 hauling the caboose train. The train along with the Diesel Shop were decorated for Halloween, including lights on some cars for the Saturday "Super Spooky Night Trains".

A highlight of the event was Sasquatch, portrayed by Bob Danner, brother of Patty Clawson of Big Fish Creations. The kids got a kick out of meeting the big hairy guy as he handed out candy in the Pumpkin Patch and on the train.

We are already planning for next year's event and are looking for volunteers to help us make it even bigger. Next year, we would like to bring back the Haunted Railcar and expand the night train operations. Come join us in the fun!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out. In particular, thank you to Patty Clawson, Steve Habeck, Ron Berriesford and Breckyn Shirley who



No ghost or witch sightings were reported, but there were multiple Sasquatch sightings reported around the museum.

- Photo by Michael Clawson 10/21/23



The first Super Spooky Night Train prepares to depart on Saturday. - Eugene Vicknair 10/21/23



- Photo by Michael Clawson 10/21/23



- Photo by Michael Clawson 10/21/23

helped with decorations. Brin Shirley and Olivia Simone worked the pumpkin patch and Ron Berriesford who worked the front gate during the event. Charlie Spikes arranged for the purchase of the pumpkins while David Hansen provided transport and also acquired hay bales for the Pumpkin Patch. Matt Shuman and Ann Morningstar helped out the final weekend, supporting wherever they were needed. Patty and Michael Clawson of Big Fish Creations handled promotion work including radio ads, event photography and videos, and helping distribute flyers and posters. Paul Finnegan made sure it all got on the website and into the Train Sheet.



- Photo by Michael Clawson

Special shout out to Ron Berriesford and his wife who baked and donated dozens of amazing cookies which we sold in the Museum Store and in the Pumpkin Patch to help raise funds.

Our train crew volunteers for the event were Charlie Spikes, Nicholas Manos Fred Elenbaas, Duane Vander Veen, Brian Waller, Des Powers, David Elems, Greg Elems, Loren Ross, Steve Habeck and Matt Shuman. Eugene Vicknair worked to keep everything moving and get it all set up. Special thanks to Duane Vander Veen who handled a lot of the pack up post event. If I missed anyone, please let me know!



Yngshi Feng returned as our face painting artist and was popular again this year.

- Photo by Michael Clawson



Due to the wet weather on Sunday, the Pumpkin Patch moved into the Diesel Shop.

- Photo by Greg Elems 10/22/23

SANTA TRAINS 2023

WPRM hosted Santa Trains again in 2023. It was held on Saturday December 2nd, Friday December 8th & Saturday December 9th and Friday December 15th & Saturday December 16th. Look for more about it in the next issue of the *Train Sheet*.



DEPARTMENTS and COMMITTEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Year directorship ends)

Kerry Cochran- parliamentarian	2026
Greg Elems	2026
Matt Elems	2024
Steve Habeck	2024
Bob Sims	2025
Charlie Spikes	2026
Roger Stabler	2025
Janet Steeper	2025
Eugene Vicknair	2024

OFFICERS

President	Greg Elems
Vice-President	Steve Habeck
Secretary	Eugene Vicknair
Treasurer	Bart Hansen

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Archives Manager	Kerry Cochran
Contracts	Vacant – handled by Secretary
DSLE	Greg Elems
Facilities	Charlie Spikes
Funding	Eugene Vicknair
General Superintendent	Kerry Cochran
Mechanical (CMO)	David Elems
Membership/Admin	Eugene Vicknair
Museum Store Manaer	Eugene Vicknair Janet Steeper
Museum Store Staff	Ann Cary, Breckyn Shirley
Superintendent of Operations	Vacant
Publications	<i>Train Sheet</i> - Paul Finnegan <i>Headlight</i> - Acting Editor: Paul Finnegan Associate Editor: Thom Anderson Team: Frank Brehm, Kerry Cochran, Eugene Vicknair
RAL Scheduler	Museum Store
Restoration	Steve Habeck
Roadmaster	Greg Elems
Shop	David Elems
Signal Department	Kerry Cochran, Kenneth Finnegan, Paul Finnegan
Steam Lead	Roger Stabler
Volunteer Manager	General Superintendent
Webmaster	Paul Finnegan
Yardmaster	Steve Habeck
Zephyr Project	Eugene Vicknair

COMMITTEES

Advertising	Eugene Vicknair, Michael and Patty Clawson – Big Fish Creations
Archives	Kerry Cochran Frank Brehm, Eugene Vicknair, Paul Finnegan, Greg Elems, Dale Sanders, Jim Atkins, Ethan Doty
Boy Scout Merit Badge	Vacant
Business Practices	Eugene Vicknair, Kerry Cochran
Elections -	Ann Morningstar, Matthew Shuman, Debbie Shuman
Excursions	Steve Habeck Frank Brehm
Headlight	Paul Finnegan
Membership	Eugene Vicknair
Model Railroad -	Bob Sims, Ethan Doty, Kerry Cochran, David Epling
Museum Store -	Eugene Vicknair, Janet Steeper
Policies & Procedures	Kerry Cochran
Safety -	David Elems (Chair), Charlie Spikes, Duane Vander Veen, Roger Stabler
Site	Eugene Vicknair

Western Pacific Railroad Museum Events Feed the Community

- Patty Clawson

More than just facilitating local awareness or providing another event, the Pumpkin Patch Express and Santa Trains hosted by the Western Pacific Railroad Museum quite literally help feed the community.

It all started with a Santa Train in December 1992 when a group of Feather River Rail Society (FRRS) volunteers decided to decorate trains with festive lights and offer free hot cocoa, coffee and cookies to the community. As the event grew in popularity, so did the awareness about food scarcity in Portola, California, where the railroad museum is located. With this awareness, the FRRS decided to offer an admission discount with the donation of nonperishable food items so the local bank, EPCAN, could stock their shelves. "In true Christmas spirit, we wanted to find a way to give back to our community," said Eugene Vicknair, Secretary of the Feather River Rail Society. "We knew our community struggled with the ability to provide food for their families, so the FRRS decided to offer an admission discount with the addition of nonperishable food."



In the same spirit of giving, the Pumpkin Patch Express event was created in 2016. Admission was also discounted, cans were collected, and nonperishable food was once again provided to EPCAN.

According to Dink Rife, EPCAN volunteer, it is estimated that 650 to 850 pounds of food are donated yearly from the Pumpkin Patch Express event and 800 to 1,000 pounds of food are donated from Santa Trains. "In the short span of 10 months, we have served 3,944 clients (averaging 394 a month) and 1,635 households (averaging 163 a month.) She stated, "EPCAN welcomes all un-expired donations of food as well as monetary donations."

Even left over pumpkins from the Pumpkin Patch Express event don't go to waste. In recent years, the FRRS decided to support animal welfare, so the extra pumpkins are packed into boxes and moved by forklift onto a truck for the animals at the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park in Reno, Nevada.

"Donating pumpkins to the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park is something we've done for the last couple of years," said Greg Elems, President of the Feather River Rail Society. "It's yet another way our events help feed the community, even if they are on the wild side."

A refuge for exotic animals, the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park provides a permanent, safe, and comfortable environment for all displaced exotic species. In addition to providing care for the animals, the zoo strives to bring top-quality educational and enriching experiences to their visitors. According to Cheryl Jones, Manager of the Sierra Nevada Zoological Park, "the donated pumpkins not only provide hours of entertainment for the animals but offer an extra nutritional value to their meals."



The Train Sheet

Feather River Rail Society
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PORTOLA, CALIFORNIA

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WEEKEND TRAIN RIDES - Memorial Day thru Labor Day

RUN A LOCOMOTIVE! Call to reserve.
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700 Western Pacific Way
Near Old Town, Portola, CA
(530) 832-4131 – www.wplives.org

Pumpkin Trains in October - Santa Trains in December.
Check website for times and dates.