



THE TRAIN SHEET

News from the Feather River Rail Society



Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"

Issue - 204

January/February/March/April 2025

Tom Hervey was appointed to fill the vacant director position until the next election cycle at the February 2025 FRRS Board of Directors meeting.

Meet Your Newest Director - Tom Hervey

Tom Hervey could be considered by some as having been a "professional" railroader having begun his railroad career as a switchman at age 18 in 1964 on the SP in Los Angeles, CA, After a two-year stint in the Army beginning in 1965, which included a tour in Vietnam, Tom returned to the SP in 1967 to continue with his career. In time Tom got the feeling he was stuck in the L. A. area which started to concern him. So in 1971 he jumped at the opportunity to go to the WP when he learned they were hiring trainmen in Portola. Tom remained with the WP, which evolved into the UP, until he retired in 2007. By then Tom had a combined 43 years in train service. But Tom wasn't finished as yet as he went on to work for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as a railroad inspector enforcing State and Federal railroad regulations. After 10 years with the CPUC Tom fully retired in 2017 giving him a total of 53+ years in the railroad industry.

During his time in Portola Tom served on the city council and served as mayor from 1980-1984. In 1983 when the Feather River Rail Society (FRRS) was being formed and had a need for the use of the then vacant WP diesel facility the city was able to assist in that effort. Tom is very proud of the fact that it is his signature on that very first lease which was initially agreed upon between the city and the UP to aid the FRRS.

Tom is a native of Rosemead, CA, growing up within a few hundred feet of the old Pacific Elec-

tric Railway's San Bernardino line. Tom has fond memories of riding the old Red Cars back in the day and remembers waving to the freight train crews as they rolled by his house.

Tom and his wife, Vickie, reside in Castro Valley in the San Francisco Bay Area and have a home in Portola.

Tom is a firm believer that through the WPRM the "WP Lives!"

Upcoming FRRS/WPRM Events...

- May 10 - Board Meeting - 1 PM Portola
- May 19-23 - Mechanical Department Work Session
- May 23-24 - Operating Department Engine Wash and Caboose Cleaning Session
- May 24 - Opening of Regular Operating Season - Train Rides 11 AM - 2 PM
- May 26 - Memorial Day - Museum Open 10 AM to 5 PM - Train Rides 11 AM - 2 PM
- June 7 - Members Dinner, Board Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting
- June 21 - Open Cab Day
- July 4 - Independence Day - Hours 10 AM to 5 PM - Train Operations
- July 12 - Board Meeting - August 9 - Board Meeting
- September 1 - Labor Day - Last Day of Operating Season Train Rides
- September 11-14 - RGMHS Joint Convention Sacramento, CA
- October 18, 19, 25, 26 - Pumpkin Express
- December 6, 13, 20 - Santa Trains

-THE TRAIN SHEET-

Issue 204 - January/February/March/April 2025
 Published May 8, 2025
 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 April, August, 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
 RAL Reservations: (530) 832-4532

2025 Hours starting May 1, 2025:
 Thursdays & Fridays Noon - 4 PM
 Saturdays & Sundays 10 AM - 5 PM
 July 4th 10 AM - 5 PM
 Pumpkin Express Days in October
 Santa Trains in December

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



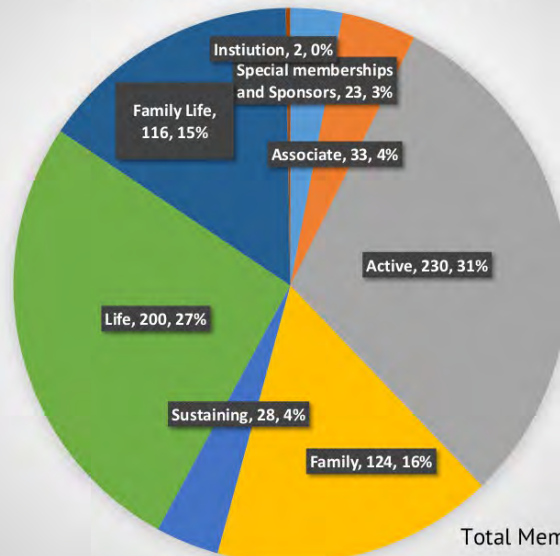
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Tom Hervey - Director	thervey@wplives.org
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Membership Report as of 4/24/25



Departure - Glen Icanberry

Life Member of the FRRS, Glen Icanberry, 67 years old, a former Santa Fe Railway employee has passed away after a yearlong battle with lung and heart disease. He passed away at Loma Linda University Medical Center Hospital on September 23rd, 2024.

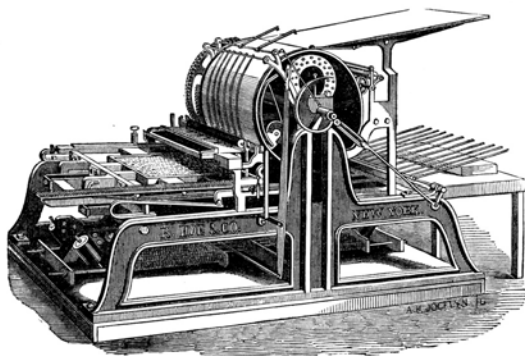
Born January 17, 1957, in Casper, Wyoming, Glen and his family moved around frequently due to his father's occupation. Glen's interest in trains and railroading caught on early as many of his homes were near railroad tracks.

After graduating from college, in Fresno, CA, he hired on immediately with the Santa Fe, working in both Calwa and Fresno. He worked in a few positions during his career, but dispatching was his favorite.

Glen's time with Santa Fe ended after the BN/ Santa Fe merger. He wrapped up his career working at AMTRAK Reservations in Riverside, CA. His retirement came in 2002.

Glen's interest and involvement in railroading never ended. An avid photographer, he and his friend literally chased trains all over the West.

We'll miss seeing him at our conventions, may you rest in peace in the great junction tower above.



Train Sheet Publication Schedule

At the February 2025 FRRS Board Meeting, the board changed the frequency of publishing the Train Sheet from four times a year to three times a year. Future issues are expected to publish early in January, May and September.

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

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



Did you know that all the agendas, reports and minutes from the FRRS Board of Director Meetings are available on the WPLives.org website? They are under the Members' area on the Minutes & Reports webpage.

There is also a Google Custom Search tool on the Minutes & Reports webpage that will do a standard Google search, but only return items from the FRRS Minutes & Reports database.

2025 WP Historic Convention Sacramento, Ca.

Kerry Cochran

The FRRS/WPRM 2025 Convention is being held in Sacramento, California, on September 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th in conjunction with the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society. This year's convention will be held at the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. While we return to the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento this should give our members and friends to chance take a look at the museum and the library.



Currently we are setting up a block of room at the Delta King right on the river next to CSRM. (More information to follow as we get things finalized.)

We need help with all aspects of the convention, so please think about giving us a hand. We are looking for presenters and presentations for the 2025 convention. Please volunteer to give a presentation on a Western Pacific Railroad, Sacramento Northern Railroad or Tidewater Southern Railroad, The Rio Grande Railroad subjects, molding of any of the railroads or a subject that has ties to any of the railroads.

Please let the convention staff know if you can help out. Send email inquiries to: convention@WPLives.org.

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 is in progress, 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 for more information.

Please watch the FRRS website for updated information. It will be updated as more information becomes available and convention schedules are finalized.

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 ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE - AN HOUR OF POWER

Home of the original
"RUN A LOCOMOTIVE"

You can operate one of our vintage diesel locomotives with your own private instructor. A certificate suitable for framing is awarded after each RAL session. Gift Certificates are also available in the Museum Store or online.

The RAL program is available from mid-April through mid-November, weather permitting.

Call (530) 832 - 4532 for reservations

www.RunALocomotive.com



runalocomotive.com

The Feather River Rail Society and the Rio Grande Modeling and Historical Society are pleased to announce the...

2025 Western Pacific - Rio Grande Railroad Historical Convention



Connecting the West

September 11-14, 2025 - Thursday-Sunday

Hosted by the California State Railroad Museum and the Delta King located in Old Sacramento, California

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 RGM&HS

Presentations and special events to be announced! Watch the convention.WPLives.org and aka.rgmhs.org/2025convention webpages for show schedules, special tours, updates and banquet info.

Fares...

Pre-Registration fares ending Sept 1, 2025	
Combo Fare (convention and buffet banquet)	\$150
Convention only	\$70
Buffet banquet only (available until Sept 1 only)	\$90
see convention website for details	
Convention only (available Sept 2-10, online only)	\$75
Convention only at the door	\$80

SPECIAL EVENTS AND TOURS!

Tours and events in planning. Watch the convention webpages for information and registration!

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.

Register online at convention.WPLives.org or aka.rgmhs.org/2025convention, or mail payments to:

WP - DRGW Historical Convention 2025, P. O. Box 25005, Salt Lake City, UT, 84125-0005

NOTE: NO mailed payments after **August 15, 2025**. Online only starting August 16, 2025.

Discount rooms available at Delta King Hotel for Convention - for details, see convention.WPLives.org or aka.rgmhs.org/2025convention. To reserve call 916.444.5464 - discount code **Feather River Rail Society**

MODELERS - don't forget to enter our model exhibition and contest. Bring your WP and DRGW related models.



Clinic and Event Lineup and more info available at convention.WPLives.org / aka.rgmhs.org/2025convention
Final schedule of presentations subject to change.

Departure - Philip L. Wyche Jr.

Longtime member of the FRRS, Philip L. Wyche Jr., age 94, of Naples, Florida passed away on Monday, December 2, 2024. His family had a long family history with the WP.

From the June 1954 employee magazine, *Mileposts*:

WYCHE IS WY·CH NOT WY·CHE

MILEPOSTS learned that train and engine crews and others concerned are having difficulty in correctly pronouncing WYCHE-the name of the new 110-car siding placed in service at Milepost 82.1, between Carbona and Lathrop, on April 20.

For lack of a word to rhyme with Wyche, MILEPOSTS offers the following:

Pronounce the WY like letter "Y."
Pronounce the CHE like "CH" in chug.
Put the two together and you have WY-CH.

The new siding was named after construction engineer Thomas J. Wyche, who worked with Virgil Bogue, chief engineer, during construction of the Western Pacific from Salt Lake City to the California state line. Wyche became chief engineer in 1910. He died in 1923.

Station PHIL, Milepost 430.8, seven miles west of Gerlach, Nevada, was named after T.J. Wyche's son, Philip L. Wyche, executive assistant to President Whitman. Phil got his first taste of railroading before entering college, when he worked on construction of the Indian Valley Railroad and later on Western Pacific's Reno Branch.

**Departure Paul Gordenev
(July 13, 1939 to October 8, 2024)**

Stephen Ferrari

Paul Gordenev was born in San Francisco in 1939, and grew up riding, and became a fan of the San Francisco Municipal Railway. He was an early rider of excursions and became involved with the Northern California Railroad Club in

San Francisco where he was president in the 1960's. He set up excursions on the McCloud River Railroad using 2-6-2 #25. Excursions that he also ran included one such as going to the Franzia Winery on the Tidewater Southern RR where everyone came home quite happy after much tasting. Another notable excursion in the early '60's was the joint railfan club Suntan Special Excursion riding on the Southern Pacific RR from San Francisco to Santa Cruz and Big Trees. He recounted that the last such trip was so popular that the Southern Pacific office that sold the tickets begged him to stop advertising as they could not put on any more cars for the train to handle the crowds. The most famous ride that he took as a teenager was riding behind the last cab forward SP 4294 over Donner in 1957. He snuck out and rode a good portion of it on top of the tender. As the late Western Pacific and Amtrak veteran Arthur Lloyd who ran the trip for the R&HS said, "Some of us had a better ride than others."

Paul also worked for the Western Pacific Railroad in many positions. He worked at the headquarters at 526 Mission Street in San Francisco. At times he also worked for them in the Traffic Department in Pittsburgh, PA, was a brakeman in Oakland and San Jose, and worked as Public Relations Manager writing and editing the Western Pacific magazine, *Mileposts*. He staged the famous photo of the 2 Bicentennial diesels on the Keddie wye bridge in 1976 that did not bode him well with the higher ups at the WP as they said that 2 locomotives could never be on the



bridge. He made it happen anyway. He stayed with Western Pacific through the merger and retired from Union Pacific in Customer Service in St. Louis.

Historical/Archive Department News First Quarter 2025

Kerry Cochran
Archive Manager

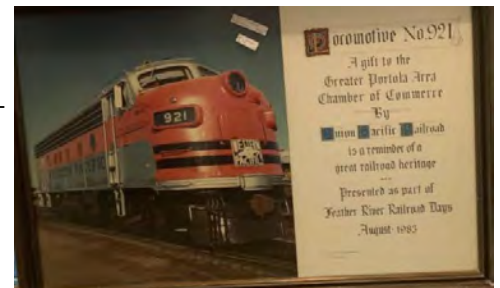
In our mission statement we make the statement: *"The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."* While we have been closed for the winter, we will reopen the Historical/Archive Department in June this year as I will not be at the museum on Memorial Day weekend.

I was contacted by Stephen Ferrari, Central Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society about a collection of Western Pacific Railroad artifacts from the late Paul Gordenev, WP Public Relations Department and *Mileposts* editor. I was able to meet up with Steve and picked up several boxes of materials that included some WP China, photographs, slides and some other WP materials. Thank you goes out to Steve for thinking about us and the WP.

Shortly after that I was contacted by Becky (Rebecca) Gerstung of the Niagara-Frontier Chapter of the NRHS in New York. They have several issues of the *"Western Railroader"* publication with dates from 1953 to 1983 (while not all complete years) with a lot of northern California railroad historical information, she was looking for a home for these magazines and I elected to accept the offer of the donation to our museum. These will be added to our collection of railroad magazines at the museum.

Member Chris Skow has recently made a donation to the archives of several WP Seniority Rosters. These have been scanned and are now available on the FRRS website. We get several questions every year about WP employees and when they worked for the WP. This will go a long way to helping us answer those questions.

Speaking of Chris, he sent me a message about some WP things he found in an antique store in Graeagle and found a couple of very interesting items. I contact the owner of the antique store and made arrangements to purchase two of the items. One of which may be very important to the FRRS. It was the original framed documentation of the Union Pacific officially donating the WP 921 to the City of Portola in August of 1983. This historically significant piece of history was



Original framed document on the Union Pacific officially donating the WP 921 to the City of Portola (see text)



Eastbound WP Steam Passenger Train at the Blairsden Depot (date unknown - see text)

later transferred to the FRRS. There was also a photo of an eastbound WP steam locomotive and passenger train stopped at the Blairsden depot. (We do not have photos of the Blairsden depot so this will help our collection.)

Another donation comes from member Jack Suderman, with several various books, brochures and a great addition to our collection is a copy of the Western Pacific Railroad Track Standards book – Switches, Guard Rails, Switch Stands etc. This book was scanned and is now available on the FRRS website also.

Erik Frodshaw of Fresno continues to send us various railroad books and magazines for our collection.

There is still a lot of work that needs to be done in the archives and several of the archive staff have been busy behind the scenes working on cataloging, scanning and preserving our collection.

2025 FRRS Election Update

Dear FRRS Members:

The 2025 Nominations were open from January 1, 2025, through January 31, 2025. Nominations were submitted to the 2025 Election Committee in writing as required and all processes and procedures were followed per the FRRS Election Policy.

The FRRS 2025 Election nominations were closed and there were three (3) qualified incumbents, and a "White Ballot" was declared. They are current FRRS Board Members Bob Sims (I), Janet Steeper (I), Michael Coen (I) (who replaced Roger Stabler). There were no other nominations received. Postcards were not sent to the FRRS Membership per the current Election Policy. The incumbent nominees will be sworn into office at the July 2025 FRRS Board Meeting.

The Election Committee is also looking into possibly using a third-party online vendor to hold future Board Elections via this process. If any members have any suggestions, please email us with them to election@wplives.org for review.

If you have an e-mail address or an address change for the FRRS and WPRM we would like to have it for multiple reasons including news announcements, elections, *Train Sheet* delivery by email and more. You may update your contact information using the Change of Address on the Membership page on the society website, wplives.org. These are used exclusively for the FRRS and WPRM and will not be sold or given out.

Please be sure to read the Election Policy for additional details if you are interested in running for the FRRS Board in 2026. Please refer to it on the WPRM website. If you have any questions about the election process, please feel free to address the Elections Committee at election@wplives.org.

At this time, I would like to thank our Webmaster Paul Finnegan and the other Election Committee members for their continued assistance in the election process. Please stay healthy and well.

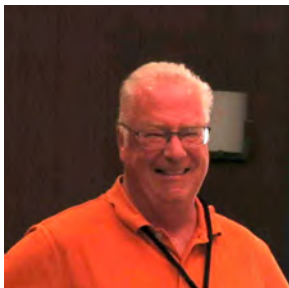
"Your 2025 Election Committee thanks you and is Proud to Serve the FRRS & WPRM."

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Shuman - FL 1948 - Chair

Ann Morningstar - L 1967 - Co-Chair

Debbie Shuman - FL 1948 - Clerk/Catering Facilitator to the Election Committee



Michael Coen



Bob Sims



Janet Steeper

FRRS Converts to New Phone Carrier

Eugene Vicknair

As phone services costs kept rising over the years, the FRRS looked at various means to keep costs down. Several years ago, we converted to a new long distance carrier but the local service was always operated by AT&T. Soon even these changes were no longer a deal and costs were rising again.

In late 2024, a suggestion was made by Nick Manos to explore using Visible, a cell based service that has a fixed monthly charge per line. The society has looked off and on at converting to cell phones, which would make winter phone answering in particular easier. Director Matt Elems is a Visible customer and stated that it has worked well for him. The price would be dramatically lower and designated users could carry the phones with them.

Director Eugene Vicknair was tasked with setting up the new services and ordering the phones, a process that presented a couple hiccups as we were moving from landlines, not other cell service. Soon, however, our new phones arrived with President Greg Elems. When this process started, we had four active lines, with one being a dedicated fax line for store accounting operations. The decision was made to drop the fax and third line, which had been for the office car, and just retain the main number (530.832.4131) and the Run-A-Locomotive number (530.832.4532). This would further reduce our costs.

With help from Eugene, Paul Finnegan, and Kerry Cochran; Greg was able to get the phones set up. There was a learning curve and again the atypical shift from landline to cell caused a couple of bumps and some downtime, but we are now completely on the cell phones and the legacy landline service has been disconnected. This change is expected to save hundreds of dollars a year and keep more of our funds working toward our core mission.

New Vice President

At the March FRRS Board of Directors meeting, long-time member and FRRS Director, Charlie Spikes, was appointed Vice President to fill the open position.

2025 Operating Department Crew Training

Paul Finnegan
FRRS/WPRM Crew Caller

2025 crew training was held on May 3rd, 2025, starting at 10 a.m. at the museum. This year 24 people attended in person, four of which are new members to the Operating Department. This is the best turnout for training that we have had in years.

The museum's train operations depend on having a trained and knowledgeable team of members. Our first General Notice is: "Safety is of the first importance in the discharge of duty." Our annual crew training and rules exam is critical for this.



If you were not in attendance at the May crew training, you can still join us by contacting the Operating Department and signing up for personal (TBA) training on the society website.



Crew training inside the Silver Plate, May 3, 2025.

Photo by Paul Finnegan

Upcoming Special Events this Season

Greg Elems & Eugene Vicknair

We have several events coming up for the society and the museum!

MUSEUM OPENING

The museum will be opening for its 2025 season on Thursday, May 1. The museum will be open 12 noon to 4 PM on Thursdays and Fridays and 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturdays and Sundays.

TRAIN RIDES RESUME

Our usual summer weekend train rides return this year starting Memorial Day weekend.

OPEN HOUSE WITH SACRAMENTO MODEL RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

On May 17-18, Saturday and Sunday, the FRRS will have an exhibit at the SMRHS open house. Come check out their amazing model railroad and artifacts, photos and information from our historical collection. Hours May 17th 10am - 4pm and May 18th 10am - 3pm.

The layout is located at 1990 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, California 95838, not far from the Winter Street exit off Interstate 80. There is a suggested donation of \$3 for adults (18 and over) and \$1 for children (under 18) to attend the Open House and support the SMRHS.

ARDENWOOD RAILFAIR

The Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources, located at the Ardenwood Farm in Fremont, California, will be holding their annual Railfair over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26, 2025. The FRRS has been invited to have a booth at the event.

SPCRR preserves narrow gauge equipment, with a particular focus on the famous Carter Brothers car building company. They have trackage and a restoration shop at Ardenwood and will be giving train rides during the event. Ardenwood itself is a demonstration farm presenting a look at agriculture in the era from 1890 to 1930. For more information, check the WPLives.org or spcrr.org websites.

The Ardenwood Farm is located at 34600 Ardenwood Blvd. Fremont, CA 94555.

OPERATING SEASON OPENS

The WPRM Operating Season for 2025 will open on Saturday, May 24 and run through Memorial Day weekend. The museum will be open from 10 AM to 5 PM, Saturday through Monday, with trains running 11 AM to 2 PM. Come and join in!

INDEPENDENCE DAY MOTORCAR RIDES

The West Coast Railroaders Group will be giving motorcar rides at the museum on Saturday and Sunday, July 5-6, along with our usual caboose train rides. Come join in this great opportunity to experience a ride on a historic railroad motorcar, then have a caboose train or locomotive cab ride as well. A great weekend for the entire family! The museum will be open 10 AM to 5 PM. Operational details are still being worked out. Please watch WPLives.org for updated information.



Online Store Update

Eugene Vicknair

During the first part of this year, we have been completely rebuilding the database for our museum store sales systems, including the online store. Old, obsolete product listings are being removed and the listing of products is being cleaned up. During this time, the online store has been listing only Run-A-Locomotive deposits and gift certificates as well as membership levels.

In addition, the online store is getting updated information and upgrades. When complete, this will allow automatic calculation of shipping costs to more accurately reflect the size and weight of shipments. We are also working on improving the payment system to make it work more smoothly.

This work will be ongoing for the next few weeks, at which point we will reopen the complete online store. If you have any questions, please email them to info@wplives.org.

2025 Strategy and Planning Meeting

Eugene Vicknair

On March 2, 2025, the FRRS held a Strategy and Planning Meeting to determine goals and pathways to reach those goals for 2025-2026. This meeting was held at the home of Director Michael Coen in Reno, Nevada. The Society had previously held meeting like this before the COVID-19 shutdowns and it was felt that they should be restarted to help provide guidance for the future.

As we had not held such a meeting in a few years, this one saw a lot of open discussion and brainstorming on topics relevant to the Society and museum.

A major topic was the need for more volunteers. It was agreed that we need project managers for events and major projects as well as a Volunteer Coordinator to help manage and coordinate our volunteers. It was noted that Kerry Cochran has existing documents on how to run many of our events to help guide future event managers / coordinators.

Previously, Director Janet Steeper had expressed an interest in helping with volunteerism. Director Michael Coen offered to help with this as well. It was recommended that they be designated as our Volunteer Coordination Committee by the Board. Ethan Doty suggested his mother may be able to help and has reached out to her, indicating she would be willing. It was also noted that, as part of upgrading our volunteer management, we also need to look at Succession Planning for major positions.

Following this was some time spent brainstorming on how to get more volunteers. Once the Volunteer Coordination Committee is set, recommendation is that they reach out to past volunteers, not just to see if they are interested in returning, but also to get specific information on why they stopped volunteering. Additional ideas were:

- Encourage current members / volunteers to bring in new people
- Enhance outreach through Social Media
- Return to having tables / booths at Train Shows and other events
- Reach out to Historical Groups along WP, SN, TS, CCT lines
 - o Noted that volunteers do not need to be railfans but have to have interest in relevant history
- Reach out to Model Train Clubs

The next topic of discussion was increasing our fundraising and income generation. This has multiple facets to it, including increasing visitorship, RAL reservations, membership, donations, grants and encouraging estate planning among members. A broader base for income was felt to be desirable to avoid a dip in any single revenue stream. It was also noted that our special events and seasonal events are big draws and income centers. Ideas discussed included:

- Ensure that we have brochures and information out in areas that funnel visitors to Museum
- Bring in more visitors / members using advertising
 - o TV / radio in local markets
 - o Social media
 - o Local outreach
- Hold events that bring in the community
- Be more visible in the community
- Reach out to tour and destination vacation guides / companies
- Encourage more group visits / events
 - o Weddings
 - o Interest groups (car clubs, model clubs, scouting groups, etc.)
 - o School outreach

- Strategic release of free / discount admission tickets
 - o Set up method of group buys for event tickets
- Corporate fundraising
 - o Noted that Eugene Vicknair, Patty Clawson and Michael Coen are in progress on this
- Identify big local donors / supporters
- Increase submission for Grants

The idea of group events is one the Society has looked at for a long time and the general feeling is that it is an undertapped opportunity. It was agreed that we need a Group Event Coordinator to spearhead this and we are looking for someone for this position. The types of events discussed include weddings and other family events, business events, interest group events (car, motorcycle and modeling clubs), vacation tour groups and school / education events.

Local engagement will be a combination of promotion, local interest events, discussion with local organizations and booster groups and political outreach. Much of this has already been occurring with Patty Clawson of Big Fish Creations, President Greg Elems and Director Eugene Vicknair working in these areas. Director Tom Hervey, a former Portola city mayor, volunteered to help with these efforts as well.

Greater engagement with local businesses was also recommended. We have great relationships with the local food coop and several motels in the area. Looking to reach out to other entities in Plumas and northern Sierra Counties.

Another goal of the meeting was to establish some targets for restoration work over the next two years. One item of clarification that was discussed was how the FRRS wants to structure its philosophy on equipment restoration and preservation. The following recommendation was made and later approved by the FRRS Board of Directors.

The FRRS shall use the following model when preserving targeted artifacts...

- Preservation – keep relevant items from being scrapped and acquire for Society as possible
- Stabilization – bring to the museum or approved space and perform stabilization if needed
- Restoration – restore as time, money, manpower allows

It was unanimously considered important to keep working to preserve WP related equipment and artifacts that can be saved from scrapping within the limitations of money and capabilities.

What followed this was a discussion concerning restoration and repair of rolling stock outside of required maintenance, starting with locomotives.

- Southern Pacific GP9 2873 – plan is to complete paint, body and repair work by May 2025
- Western Pacific GP7 705 – we have the funds to paint, just need painting crew / leader
- Western Pacific GP9 – they have mechanical needs and require paint, discussion to consider painting one in green with WP 705
- Western Pacific F7A 921-D – needs major mechanical and body work
- Western Pacific F7A 917-D – consider repainting in 1970s green and orange
- Western Pacific FP7 805-A – needs brake stand rebuild and paint touchups

After reviewing the options, it was recommended to the Board that our Locomotive Priorities for 2025-2026 be as follows:

1. Southern Pacific GP9 2873 – complete work
2. Western Pacific FP7 805-A – repair brakes and touch up paint

3. Western Pacific GP7 705 – repaint into green and orange
4. Quincy TR6A 1100 – retouch QRR grey and red paint
- Discuss with SPI promoting work on this locomotive and discuss possible SPI employee day at the museum

CMO Nick Manos later suggested replacing WP FP7 805-A with WP GP 707. The 707 requires new injectors which will likely be an easier fix than the brake work needed by the 805-A. If this is adopted, 805-A would move to the #5 position in priority.

Concerning non-locomotive rolling stock, it was recommended that the Rolling Stock Priorities for 2025-2026 be as follows:

1. Sacramento Northern covered hopper 5005 – paint work
 2. Tidewater Southern boxcar 521 – repair doors, repaint body, Eugene Vicknair to obtain replica logo decals
 3. Western Pacific passenger coach 302 – patch body holes and secure car
- Other cars discussed for work following these:
- o Western Pacific gondola 6424 – repainting / reletter
 - o Western Pacific tank car 0291 – repaint blue dome, touch up body paint
 - o Western Pacific caboose 483 – analyze car for restoration and provide report to Board

It was noted that Sacramento Northern caboose 1642 is being handled as a personal project by Greg Elms and that work on the would proceed as he and his assistants have time.

The historical archives are a major part of our preservation and education efforts. Following extended discussion on the archives and their needs, the following recommendations were made for Archive Priorities for 2025-2026:

1. Display Room – seal doors and leaks, seal and repair windows, hang window film / block, change lights to archive safe styles, update displays
2. Complete Archive Car west end work
3. Complete scanner, computer, printer systems in Archive car

The meeting closed with discussions on facilities priorities and upcoming grant opportunities. The following Facilities Work Priorities for 2025-2026 were made:

1. Complete north side drainage work along Diesel Shop
2. Begin ground work for Whitman Building

Diesel Shop roof is acknowledged as a priority but requires funding. It was also suggested that we clean up and repaint the entrance shack to improve appearance and utilization.

Noted that several grants are coming up. The following recommendations were made for their subjects:

1. BNSF Foundation – safety equipment for shop
2. UP Foundation – improved stairs for UP 6946

It was agreed that the next Strategy and Planning Meeting should be held in early 2026 to revise the current priorities and set new ones.

If you are interested in volunteering for the Society, and there are things that do not require travelling to the museum that need to get done, or have any questions or input on these priorities, please send an email to info@wplives.org.

- FRRS Membership -**Yearly Dues**

Associate \$25.00
 Active \$50.00
 Family \$80.00
 Sustaining \$150.00

Single Life Membership - \$1800.00**Family Life Membership** - \$3000.00**Institutional** - \$60.00 (annual membership for 501(c)3 groups)

Renew or change your information on
 the FRRS website! Go to:
<https://membership.WPlives.org>

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.
 Five year payment plans are available for life memberships.

Associate memberships do not have a vote, receive *The Train Sheet* by email but not the *Headlight* and are for one person only.

Active memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only.

Family memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, have two votes and include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address.

Sustaining memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only.

Life memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and *Headlight*, have voting rights and are for one person only for life.

Family Life memberships receive both *The Train Sheet* and the *Headlight*, include two adults and all minor children residing at the same address, and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes, including email changes, to:

Feather River Rail Society - Membership Dept. - P.O. Box 608 - Portola, CA 96122-0608

Address / email changes may also be sent to membership@wplives.org

Mission 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."

Mission Goals Summary

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "*Willing People*" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads, and WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.

WPRM Admission and Train Ride Fares for non-members (effective May 1, 2025)**Admission**

- Adult (ages 19 - 64): \$10.00
- Youth (ages 5 - 18): \$6.00
- Child (age 4 and under): free
- Senior (65 and up) and Active Military: \$8.00
- Family (defined as 2 adults plus any related children 18 and under): \$25.00

Admission and train ride tickets are good all day.

Admission and train rides for FRRS members are free.
 Cab rides are extra fare with member discount.

Train Rides (all day)

- Adults 19 - 64: \$5.00
- Youth 5 - 18: \$3.00
- Child 4 and under: free
- Senior (65 and up) and Active Military: \$5.00
- Family (defined as 2 adults plus any related children 18 and under): \$14.00

Cab Rides Cab (for one ride only)

- Adults 19 - 64: \$20.00
- Youth 5 - 18: \$12.00
- Senior (65 and up) and Active Military: \$20.00

***The Train Sheet* needs your photos and articles!**

If you are working on projects for the society, volunteering on restorations, performing archives work, helping out at off-site events, etc., or if you get some nice photos of FRRS or museum happenings that you want to share, please contact us to have them printed in *The Train Sheet*.

Photos should be at least 5" high by 7" wide and 300 dots per inch.

Articles should focus on FRRS related events, people or your own personal experiences with the society.

To contribute, contact the editor - Paul Finnegan, by email at trainsheet@wplives.org.

The Train Sheet

Feather River Rail Society
P.O. Box 608
Portola, CA 96122-0608

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Caboose Train on September 22, 1989, featuring one of the museum's Vista Flats.

Photo by Norm Holmes from the FRRS Archives