

Superintendent of Operations report

November 2019

The normal operating season has closed, and Pumpkin Trains are now behind us. This summer season was difficult for the Operating Department due to a decided lack of volunteers. Every weekend pretty much turned out to be the same 7 or 8 people stepping up to make sure the visitors received some kind of train ride.

I would like to ask the board to consider having Big Fish include some kind of recruitment in our ads, primarily in the Reno area to see if we can drum up some more volunteers. As we look around at our membership, we see that almost everyone in Operations is fully qualified at all positions, and we don't have any new members to teach. Having the opportunity to teach new personnel is the best way for all of us to keep ourselves in shape as well. I'd be remiss if I didn't point out that we are all getting older too. While I'm still able to function in crew capacity, I know I'm not as agile and strong as I was when I started here 19 years ago. I doubt I'll be getting any better as time goes on. We need young men and women to take over, so recruitment is our best bet to accomplish this.

This year, thankfully, was an injury free year! As far as I'm aware, there was only one mishap with a run-through switch, and only minor damage. The parties involved have been counselled, and training will again address the issue before next year.

Although we didn't get a lot of track work completed, we did manage to get the balloon track cleaned up from the work we did 3 years ago. I'd like to thank Bil Jackson for his help in getting over 3 truck loads of old ties off the balloon. That was a really dirty job, done on a pretty hot day. Without his help, the task would not have been completed.

Prep for the Santa Trains is now in progress. Greg Elems and I have been working on the SN caboose to get some fresh paint on it before the weather turns bad. It's looking pretty good! A lot of work is being done all over the museum. Kudo's to the folks for all they do.

Planning for next years crew training is next on my list. Dates are established and we will do our best to get as many people trained up as possible.

Respectfully submitted;

Loren Ross

S.O.O.