

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 2020

A few things have happened at the museum since the last board meeting. The big item is the switching of equipment. Steve's plan went pretty close to his wishes and we now have it mostly complete. Steve will probably have a full report. What I can say is things look different.

While the last 4 weeks have been busy with other chores we have had a lot of smoke to deal with. Along with the state relaxing the restrictions somewhat we have had a constant parade of people wanting to visit. Tough as it is, we turn them away and ask them to check us out next spring. With the visitors at the gate we've also had some trespassers. What this brings to the top of the list, and something we've discussed over the last few years is the fence project. The time to finish that and repair the gates at Malfunction Jct to the UP track is now. Later this month Charlie Spikes and I will be talking to a fence contractor to get an estimate on cost to finish.

Some more progress on the SN 1642 was made in prep for the side to get its brown primer. In the moving of it this summer and the heat, it exposed some more cracks on the primed side so I will be filling in those and finishing the caulking on the unpainted side. I need to give Duane a shout out on his work on the SN caboose. He took the rotting wood on the b end off the platform and inside the floor to the bolster. He also repaired the door frame so the end door works properly once again. Once he's done with that I will scrape loose paint and fill in the cracks on the end. Steve Habeck and I will be checking the roof, inside and out and taking the old AC box off the roof and filling in that hole. New fascia boards will then be installed on the sides of the roof. Primer paint and then we'll see how much time we have left this year and decide if we finish the paint or wait till next spring.

Once my work on the caboose is finished, my plan is to start cleaning up the 705. Anyone want to help? If so, let me know.

September should be cooler and hopefully the fires and smoke will go away. Loren Ross and I will be doing tie replacement out on the balloon track. Any and all help would be appreciated on that too.

I'm thinking the mountain lion has left the museum, haven't seen any signs of it for a while. The resident deer have returned also. In our inspection rounds of the museum, we keep running into them. Also the foxes, rabbits and raccoons are back. Of course the bear still visits and leaves its calling card.

Be careful and keep safe out there,
Greg Elems