

World Wide Western Pacific

By Eugene Vicknair
Part 3

The rise of the internet and the growing ease with which websites can be created has led to an explosion of information available to the world. Of particular interest to members of the Feather River Rail Society are the many sites devoted to the Western Pacific and related topics such as the California Zephyr and WP subsidiaries. In fact, a quick look at several popular search engines shows the WP family to be one of the best represented and documented railroads on-line. The following are some brief descriptions of several of these websites. They are grouped by railroad according to their primary focus, but many have information on related lines.

WESTERN PACIFIC.. some additions to the list

WP Empire..
www.wp-empire.com

Created by WP modeler Mike Hinkle, My Western Pacific Empire chronicles his home layout and WP recreations in N scale.

To aid in this quest, Mr. Hinkle has gathered much information on the prototype and shares it on his site along with updates on his models and layout. Of particular interest are his photo illustrated guides to WP rolling stock and locomotives, lists of WP models available in N scale, photos of WP car sightings near in his home state of Texas and several link lists to other WP, SN and TS related sites. Recent projects currently chronicled on the site include some WP GP20s in Zephyr paint and a brace of Tidewater Southern Cornucopia boxcars.

Widow Creek..
www.widowcreek.com

Another modeling based website with much prototype information. While webmaster Chris Sgaraglino includes a great deal of information about his modeling, the main portions of the site are given over to data about the WP, including industries served, information on WP region shortlines and vital stats about the railroad. This site also features items for sale, including duplicate track charts for the WP, SN and TS and blueprints for WP structures.

CALIFORNIA ZEPHYR.. some additions to the list

Zephyr Project On-Line..
www.zephyrproject.com
Zephyr Project On-Line Store..
www.cafepress.com/zephyrproject

Two recent sites related to the FRRS' Zephyr Project.

The main site features historical information about the Silver Hostel dome-lounge car and WP FP7 locomotive 805-A, both being restored as part of the project. Updates and items about the restoration and fundraising campaign can also be found.

The store offers items of CZ interest with all proceeds going to support the project.

DEEP CREEK RAILROAD..
www.lnett.com/~deepcreek/page5.html

This single page section to a much larger site covering the history around Wendover, a city on the Nevada-Utah border, gives quite a nice overview of one of the most obscure sections of the WP system: the Deep Creek Railroad. Major dates of DC interest and traffic information are given, as well as instructions on how to reach Gold Hill, Utah, the terminus of what was basically the WP's loneliest branchline.

ALAMEDA BELT LINE..
www.trainweb.org/westernrails/ca/abl.html

One of the two terminal railroads in the Oakland area jointly owned by the WP and the Santa Fe, the ABL was once a thriving and very interesting operation on the island of Alameda. Now all but abandoned, its final spur is switched by the UP on rare occasions and most of its right of way has been obliterated by new development.

This subsection of Rob Jacox's Western Rails includes a complete roster of the ABL and photos of some of its motive power.

In the next issue...

Part 4 covers websites with general information about WP and WP related roads.

2003 WPRRHS Convention

By Thom Anderson

The 2003 WPRRHS Convention to be held on April 11-12 on is continuing to make progress. Flyers have been mailed to attendees of previous conventions. If you haven't received one, a registration form has been included in this issue of the Train Sheet.

The list of presenters is being finalized as this is written. More information will be available on the website <http://www.wprrhs.org> as it becomes available. Information on the site, the Oakland Airport Holiday Inn is available through a link at the WPRRHS website.

The Holiday Inn can also be contacted by phone at 510-562-5311. Mention the WPRRHS for the convention rate if you're planning to stay there.

One feature that has not been part of a WPRRHS convention before is an extra-fare excursion train. The Society, in participation with Trains Unlimited Tours, is running an excursion with two California Zephyr dome cars from Oakland to Bakersfield and return on April 13. More information is available at the TUT website

www.trainsunltdtours.com/zephyr/.

If you're interested in riding, don't delay - seats are selling fast!

The WPRRHS 2004 convention has been set for April 16-17 at the Holiday Inn in Reno. Mark your calendars. If you're interested in participating as a presenter or as convention staff, please contact Convention Host Frank Beavers through the Society P.O. Box or e-mail him at wp751@thegrid.net.

See you in Oakland!

**7th Annual Western Pacific Railroad Historical Society
Convention - "Oakland Railroading"
April 11-12, 2003, at the Holiday Inn, 500 Hegenberger Rd., Oakland, CA**

1:00-11:00 pm Friday **REGISTRATION FORM & INFORMATION** 9:00am-11:00 pm Saturday

Clinics, slide shows, swap area, WPRRHS/FRRS sales, vendor sales, model & photo displays, memorabilia displays, raffles, Photo Contest. Please limit your models and photos to WP and subsidiary topics.

Rooms: Holiday Inn is holding a block of rooms. Cost is \$85.00 per room, double occupancy. Reservations must be made before **March 28** by calling the hotel directly **510-562-5311**. Mention the WPRHS 2003 Convention. Please confirm the hotel's cancellation policy. There is a restaurant on site and many other places to eat nearby.

Alternate Motels – call for Rates, Information & Reservations:

Nearby: Motel Six - 510-638-1180; Days Inn - 510-568-1800
At Jack London Square: Waterfront Hotel 510-836-3800; Jack London Inn - 510-444-2032

Banquet: Saturday, April 12, 6:00pm, choice of dinner entrée. Banquet tickets are NON-REFUNDABLE. **ALL banquets MUST be PRE-PAID.**

Swap Meet: We will provide an area to swap/sell your WP related items. You are responsible for your items and no selling will take place during presentations. Tables are \$20.00 each. Contact Barbara Holmes at 510-614-0846 for more information and to reserve your table.

EXCURSION: Please visit our website at <http://www.wprrhs.org> for excursion and convention information.

REGISTRATION FORM – COMPLETE & RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK (please print)

Name(s): _____ **Address:** _____

Phone: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

N o t e :

There is no charge for non-rail spouses to attend, except for the Banquet. No paper confirmation will be sent. Your check is your receipt. **We must have your banquet choices before April 4.**

_____ **Regular** Fare ticket **\$30.00**, (\$35.00 at the door)

_____ **Banquet only \$32.00** _____ **Deluxe** Fare Ticket includes Banquet **\$56.00**

_____ **Chicken** _____ **Beef** _____ **Vegetarian**

Please make checks to: **Western Pacific Convention 2003** and send to:

**Vic Neves
PO Box 23721
Oakland, CA 94623-0721**

For more information call Vic Neves 510-352-4373 winterail@attbi.com or winterail@comcast.com