

Presidents Report
Greg Elems

First thing I'd like to do is report the end of the cabooses train operations for the season on September 2nd. Loren Ross did a very good job running program and we had a good safety record for the season of regular cabooses trains. I want to thank everyone who worked on them this season. Well done crew peoples, well done.

The list of crew members will be in alphabetical order:

Lew Barnard
Robbie Campbell
Kerry Cochran
Ethan Doty
David and Matt Elems
Fred Elenbaas
David Epling
Kenneth and Paul
Finnegan
Steve Habeck
Bil Jackson
Don Nelson
Bill and Jackson Parker
Ed Powell
Loren Ross
Charlie Spikes
Janet Steeper

We did have one incident on Saturday August 3rd. An investigation took place and was closed. Problems were identified and solutions put in place to correct the problems. So if you are in the operating department be sure to keep current with our bulletins.

Planning for the Pumpkin Express and pumpkin patch are in full swing. This year we will be using the 1503 to pull the Pumpkin Express and the Santa trains. I encourage everyone to come and help and see the newly repainted 1503 in action. We will have 2 food vendors this year as well as face painting for the little ones. At this time I want to thank Vince Bonfiglio for his excellent work on painting the door gates for the baggage car. They are now sanded, splinter free and Halloween orange. You will see the Sweetwood in the shop this year, KC will have it decorated in a Halloween theme for the younger crowd.

Speaking of the 1503, David Elems has used his talents to make a set of great looking number boards. We have the gasket material to install them. We had a problem with the engine brake (independent brake for the technical term) but Ethan and David worked on it and it was tested Friday the 13th and working correctly. Thanks David and Ethan. David has the bell back on, and it works.

The horn will go on Saturday and 1503 should be ready for a shakedown run this weekend.

In the RAL department, we didn't do as well as we did last year. Our total RAL's run were down by around 35 or so. We did add the 2001 to the RAL fleet this year and had several rentals. It is a popular engine and the engineers enjoyed running it. Hopefully next year we can build on that. Also the WP 512, our ex-Army Alco S1 has been spotted in front of the shop on the west end. David Elems is doing an inspection to see what it will take to get it running again. I will leave that report to him. Hopefully we can add it to the RAL fleet next spring. Should it run again a new paint job might be in order or at the very minimum some touch up on its black and white paint it currently wears. It will be great to see it running again and I for one have never run it. How many others would like to run it?

Bil Jackson and I talked about our rubber tire fleet Friday. Bil is waiting on some information on parts availability on the Yale Forklift. He would like to get it fixed then take Big White out of service to fix it properly. Also I'd like to thank Bil for his work on the brown Ford pickup, good to have it back for our chores around the museum. Vince Bonfiglio did a fantastic job on the golf cart getting it rewired and working again. Also we had several members pony up the money for new batteries.

Ed Powell has been working on the Heater/AC unit for the MP archives. Ed has gotten a lot done and almost finished. I need to give a shout out to him also for his work. Thank you Ed, well done.

This year has been tough on the organization financially but we persevered and actually have some progress to show. We successfully had our first Western Pacific Celebration. The 1503 was painted and repaired and will power our seasonal trains this fall. We will be able to use our archive car as was intended so many years ago when it was decided to what to do with our sensitive archives. WP 512 has been moved and hopefully will get in running order before next operating season. We as an organization need to be proud of what we were able to do this year.

Last but not least. Steve Habeck had surgery on September 3rd. He is back home and once again able to stop by the museum. I'm sure I speak for everyone Steve, glad you made it through the surgery and are on the road to recovery. Take your time, get your rest and get better. We look forward to having you feeling like your old self again.