

## End of Operating 2022 Season

- Loren Ross  
*Superintendent of Operations*

Another operating season is in the books. This year was our first full year back from the pandemic issues, and although it was successful overall, the year could have been better. Conductor reports for the summer show some interesting statistics:



Total caboose train rides given: 1,678

The three busiest weekends were all the holiday weekends. July 4<sup>th</sup> was number one (510 riders) followed by Labor Day (221), Memorial Day (181), and the weekend right after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July came in at #4 (108).

The first two runs of every day were always the busiest, and the last two runs of the day were always the lowest ridership. During the year, we annulled a total of 29 runs with no riders.

On the negative side, this year we had three days with NO crew to operate. This resulted in an approximate loss of 126 riders for those days. With as many people as we have in the Operating Department, there is no reason to have to annul complete days of operations. Some of you attend crew training every year, and never show up for even one day of operations. I implore you to monitor the schedules and to sign up for crew when you see nobody is available. The same seven people cannot be expected to be responsible for the entire year of operations.

To those seven (you all know who you are), THANK YOU for your summer of hard work to keep things running. I would also like to thank Engineer Craig Simmons and Engineer Charlie Spikes for their dedication to the RAL program.

These two Engineers went way above the call to make sure the RAL program flourished. Without them, we would have lost a lot of financial support and customer good will.

This fall, we're going back to *Pumpkin Trains* and *Santa Trains*. We **NEED CREW!!** We need help setting up and prepping the cabooses for *Santa Trains*, and we need help with the Pumpkin Patch. We need car attendants and helpers everywhere, please sign up!!

See you there!!



*WP 1503 was the workhorse for our demonstration caboose trains for 2022. WP 165 pulled the caboose train on July 2-3 and September 3-4 showing that WP LIVES!*  
 - Photo by Kerry Cochran