

# THE TRAIN SHEET

**Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"**

News from the Feather River Rail Society



**Issue 142 / 143 . Winter 2007 - 2008**

**Details on CZ Diner "Silver Plate" - Rotary Plow Operation  
2007 Railfan Photographer Day**

*On August 22, 1910, the city of Oakland, CA officially welcomed the Western Pacific. - FRRS collection photo*

**- THE TRAIN SHEET -**

News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola

Editor - Eugene John Vicknair  
408.839.5750 or via e-mail at  
trainsheet@wplives.org

Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of February, April, June, August, October and December

Contents Copyright ©2007  
Feather River Rail Society  
All Rights Reserved

**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY  
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
MUSEUM at PORTOLA**

P.O. Box 608 . Portola, CA . 96122-0608

Museum: 530.832.4131  
Fax: 530.832.1854

The museum grounds are open to the public from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily from the first Saturday in March through the first Monday in November. The Diesel Shop is open from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily during these dates.

Train operations begin the last Saturday in May and continue each weekend through the first Monday in September.

The museum grounds are closed to the public from the first Tuesday in November through the first Friday in March except for special events in which advance arrangements have been made. If you wish to visit during the closure period, it is advisable to call in advance and find out if the museum will be open.

Entrance to the museum is free, although a suggested donation of \$5.00 is greatly appreciated.

The Feather River Rail Society, a tax-exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California.

***The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific Railroad.***

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774  
Member of the Association of Railway Museums and the Tourist Railway Association, Inc

**- BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS -**

Rod McClure	President	president@wplives.org
Michael Coen	Treasurer	treasurer@wplives.org
Steve Habeck	VP, Director	vpresident@wplives.org
Frank Brehm	Director	wp_lives@wplives.com
Norm Holmes	Director	mywpr2001@sbcglobal.net
Gail McClure	Director	1badfrog@charter.net
Wayne Monger	Director	milwroadU25B@comcast.net
Matt Parker	Director	dogandponyshow@ouoasis.net
Merrill Thurman	Director	merrill_thurman@wplives.org
Eugene Vicknair	Secretary, Director	secretary@wplives.org
Thom Anderson	WPRRHS Admin	
John Walker	Museum Manager	

**Table of Contents - Issue 142 / 143**

FRRS Acquires "Silver Plate"	3
Member Spotlight: Loren Ross	4
First RAL of 2008	5
Board Motions and Actions	7
2007 Railfan Photographer Day	13
Steam Progress	15

NOTE: This is a special double issue due to production backlogs and limited wintertime submissions. It's been a very busy year so far, but everyone's so busy they are behind in writing. There will be a special issue coming in Fall 2008 to even out the count.

-Editor



**- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -**

FRRS Official Site	www.WPLives.org
WPRR Historical Society	www.wprrhs.org
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net
Western Pacific Pages	www.WPLives.com
WP Virtual Museum	wpmuseum.railfan.net
Sac Northern On-Line	www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y
Tidewater Southern Pages	www.TidewaterSouthern.com
Tidewater Southern	www5.pair.com/rattenne/WP/TideIndex.htm
Central Calif Traction	www.trainweb.org/tractionco/

## FRRS ACQUIRES "SILVER PLATE"

- Eugene Vicknair, Zephyr Project Manager

As reported in the last issue, the Feather River Rail Society is now the proud owner of the *California Zephyr* dining car "Silver Plate". The "Plate" is the last diner that survives intact from the "Silver Lady". The acquisition caps a seven year effort by members of the FRRS to add this key car to our growing Zephyr collection.

The car was built by the Budd Company in 1948, one of six diners for the CZ fleet. Two were owned by the WP, the "Silver Plate", WP 841, and sister "Silver Platter", WP 842. All six cars lasted to the end of CZ service. The three CBQ diners were sold to Amtrak after the CZ ended, while the DRGW's sole diner was used in *Rio Grande Zephyr* service until that train was discontinued. It was sold to Amtrak in 1983, but was found to have a cracked frame and was scrapped. Amtrak heavily rebuilt the three ex-CBQ diners. Reportedly, one or two are still in service. The WP sold the "Silver Platter" to Mexico's Ferrocarril del Pacifico in 1971. It would last until the late 1980's when it was scrapped.

The "Plate" was involved in at least one incident during its WP career. In August, 1955, the CZ derailed in Hayward, damaging several cars. The "Silver Plate" and our CZ locomotive WP 805-A were on the train that day. After the end of the CZ, the "Plate" ended up leading a more pampered life than her sisters. Sold in 1972 to the Sierra Railroad, she was used as a cafe for the Sierra's passengers. Reports state that the car saw a few trips on the Sierra's Wine and Cheese trains, but for the most part she sat parked just west of the depot with a deck built to one end. After a few years, the grill was closed and the car sat idle. For most of the last 25 years, it has been seen by few outside the Railtown 1897 docents and volunteers, who used the "Plate" as a lounge and gathering place.

Budd designed the diners and the dome-lounge-buffet cars to work as a joined team, with much of the dining storage being found in the dome-lounge cars. These two cars were almost always coupled together expect for the earliest months of CZ service.

Despite over 35 years having passed since the end of the CZ, the "Plate" is in remarkably original condition. While the original cooking grill was dismantled by the Sierra and some



electrical and mechanical subsystems are damaged, the car has not been substantially altered since leaving service. Only age and wear have left any noticeable marks.

Many of the removed parts still exist and will be returned to the car. Some systems, such as the air conditioning, will likely need to be replaced while others must be rebuilt. The table tops, for instance, inlaid with a linoleum type material, are deteriorating badly, as is the carpet. The glass dividers in the dining area and the etched mirror behind the steward's station vanished years ago, but replicas are possible.

Work continues to get the "Plate" moved to Portola. The car has not been off the Sierra since 1972 and needs brake work and a complete inspection. The goal is to have it in Portola before the close of operating season 2008 and to have it open to the public in early 2009.

*Thank you to everyone at the FRRS and CSRM who made this historic deal a reality. Special thanks go to FRRS President Rod McClure and Kyle W. Wyatt of CSRM.*



## Spotlight On: LOREN ROSS

For Superintendent of Operations Loren Ross, railroading started as a childhood experience.

Beginning at the age of 7, Loren would go to work with his dad, who was a Switchman for the Southern Pacific in Sparks, Nevada. Loren's dad was a Herder at the Sparks yard and had Loren helping with the responsibility of lining switches to route trains into and out of the yard. Gaining the trust of switch crews, Loren had the opportunity to work with them sorting cars about the yard and even got the chance to run an engine or two.

At age 12, Loren began participating in a summer swim team. This, he says, led to his discovery of girls. This new fascination soon sidelined his interest in trains for a time. At 15, Loren joined the police Explorer program, a move that led to a 32-year career in law enforcement with the Reno Police Department.

Throughout his life, volunteerism has been a value. Be it coaching Little League and football for his kids or running the police Explorer program, an opportunity that allowed him to lead at least 35 young people into law enforcement careers, giving his time is something that has been prevalent in his life. At present, aside from working for our museum, Loren also participates in a "Car Clinic" his church conducts bi-monthly wherein 10 men provide basic service (oil changes, light repairs, etc.) and safety checks on vehicles belonging to widows and single parents, serving about 10-15 people at each clinic.

This spirit of giving, coupled with his involvement in law enforcement, led him to serve for 11 years as a volunteer with the Washoe County, NV Sheriff's HASTY team. This unit trains to perform heavy and hazardous rescue work, including water and mine rescues, and, at the time of Loren's involvement, performed all accident extrication work in the County. One of the most memorable events during this time was the Galaxy Airlines crash on January 21, 1985, the worst aviation accident to occur in Reno. Loren had the team's rescue rig that fateful night and was involved in the initial response to this disaster as well as spending four days assisting with recovery efforts.

In 2000, fellow Officer and FRRS Member Tom

Mueller learned of Loren's interest in railroading and told him about our museum, adding that he must check it out. Loren did - in May of 2001 he attended a crew training weekend and has been active in our Operating Department since that time. Now, we get to benefit from Loren's drive to volunteer as some of his free time, which increased with his retirement from law enforcement in 2002, is given to us. In 2005 he was appointed to the position of Assistant Yardmaster, and he stepped in to take the position of Superintendent of Operations in 2007 following the resignation of Kerry Cochran.

"I found a place where I can have some fun and interact with people," says Loren about what attracts him to spend time at the museum. "There is nothing better at the end of the day than to see a kid and his parents headed for the gate with smiles from ear to ear because they had such a great time," he adds.

From mid-August through mid-November 2006, Loren and his wife Kim took advantage of a program they discovered that allows retired law enforcement personnel to perform service for the National Parks Service, doing work in the Great Smokey Mountains National Park in Tennessee. Unfortunately for us, but fortunately for Loren and Kim, this program will take them from our area for much of the summer of 2008. They will be enjoying an opportunity to work at Grand Canyon National Park this April through July and then are hoping to return to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park for another rotation from mid-August through mid-November. Although Loren will be greatly missed, we wish he and Kim a wonderful sojourn while looking forward to the great stories they will return with, as well as those post cards we know they will be sending.



*Loren and faithful companion A-Bomb.*

## FIRST RAL OF 2008

- Norman Holmes, Director

Henry Luna, President of the Pacific Locomotive Association, called me last fall and asked if he could bring a group to Portola on Wednesday, March 5, 2008, so that they could visit the museum and do our Run-A-Locomotive program. I said yes. They would be coming to Reno on the "Snow Train", stay overnight and then come to Portola in the morning.

In late February, Henry confirmed that he was indeed bringing a group of about 35 and would arrive about 10 AM. I informed him that we still had quite a bit of snow on the ground, but we would do our best to accommodate the group.

I notified Steve Habeck of the group's plans so we could prepare the museum for their visit. We had an above average snowfall this winter and, even though we had operated our rotary snowplow earlier, additional snow had covered the tracks. It was decided that we would clear the tracks by operating the rotary as soon as they arrived, then do the R-A-L runs.

Steve spent all day Tuesday watering the rotary engine set (Southern Pacific SD9 4404 and SP GP9 2873) and the rotary power unit. He wanted to make sure that everything was ready to run. My wife Barbara and I checked and cleaned the restrooms and gift shop. A large piece of carpet was found to put down on the mud where the bus was to unload its passengers.

Early Wednesday morning, Steve got all the units running, including the SP TR6A 1100 for the R-A-L. There was a problem with a frozen hose that was needed to add water to the rotary power unit, but that was soon thawed out. I met the bus at the gate and talked to the group, telling them of our plans to operate the rotary for them. They were thrilled. A cab ride was offered in the rotary so they could see the operation first hand. Steve took advantage of this opportunity and asked for a \$20 donation each for the riders.

Most of the remaining group walked up to the sewer crossing (we are going to have to find a better name!) and we got some great pictures of





the snowplow working. The lucky seven were overjoyed with this once in a lifetime experience.

Ken Iverson then, with the SP 1100, coupled into and shoved nine cars, including the derrick, from the lead around the balloon track to free up the tracks for the R-A-L. By this point, it was time for lunch. Henry had made arrangements with Dee's Station Cafe to serve the group. Dee was all set p for us and was able to quickly serve a nice lunch as well as taking care of the regular patrons.

Meanwhile, back at the museum, Ken found out that the 1100 did not want to cooperate. It quit loading. Steve looked it over but could not find the problem. The 2873 was cut out of the rotary set and was used then for the R-A-L. Ken and I took turns as instructors, giving each participant a chance at the throttle for a one-way trip around the balloon.

Linda Knudsen worked in the gift shop where we had a nice wood fire going in the stove. Charlie Spikes came in early to help Steve with

the watering and to control the rotary's blades.

After the group left at 3:30 PM, everything was put back in place and the water drained from the units. It was an early in the year event for us, but the weather cooperated with blue skies and warm, 50 degree temperatures. Everyone said they had a good time.

*photos by Norman Holmes*

---

### **Southern Pacific Rotary MW208**

The WPRM is one of the few museums in North America that features a working rotary snowplow. Our ex-SP plow was built in 1927 and was the last on the railroad to be converted to diesel power. It was leased to the Western Pacific and used at Keddie and on the HighLine after the WP retired their own plows. It was also one of the plows used to rescue the *City of San Francisco* in 1953. The only death during that dangerous feat occurred when the 208 turned over while being rerailed, killing engineer Holland Raymond.

## October 2007 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - approved motion 07-10-01.

. Minutes - from the August 2007 BOD Meeting.  
. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end August 2007.

2. Business Motions

#### **Motion 07-10-02**

##### 2008 FRRS Calendar

Approval Approval of FRRS 2008 Calendar as presented.

Vicknair / Brehm. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-10-03**

##### FRRS Member Appreciation Plan

Table item to future meeting.

McClure / Brehm. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-10-04**

##### WPRM Brochures

Table item to November meeting.

McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-10-05**

##### Diesel Shop Storm Windows

Table item to future meeting pending available funds.

McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-10-06**

##### Credit Card Policy

Approval of proposed policy pending removal of statement regarding credit card use and a procurement policy, and presentation in FRRS approved format.

McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-10-07**

##### Vehicle Mileage Reimbursement Request

Approval of reimbursement of mileage expense to Director Stiles for the performance of museum transport needs in the amount of \$310.00, funded from budgetary line item number 51015 - Equipment Transportation, and

pending receipt of invoice for same McClure / Holmes. Aye - 3, Nay - 1, Abstain - 1.  
Motion carried.

### Actions and Notices

· Ed Powell announced he would donate installation work on the new HVAC system for the Silver Debris Lounge car. In addition, Ed would obtain the needed parts and system from his employer at cost.

### President's Report

· The President gave a report on Railfan Photographer's Day, stating that it went well from all accounts.  
· Silver Plate Acquisition continues with preparation for transport.

### Director's Reports

*Vicknair* - Thanked Leo Valley, Ed Powell, Jay Sarno, Terry DeCottelines and James Mason for all of their recent work on the Volunteer Lounge. Noted a donation of tools and assistance with AEI tags and new lettering for SP 4107 / CCT 100 by Tom Carter.

*Holmes* - Announced completion of painting of Quincy 3 through labor and materials donated by him and Barbara Homes. Thanked John Rzykowski for the labor and materials to letter the locomotive.

*Brehm* - Reported he hopes to have the WP Training Manual reprinted and ready for sale at Winterail 2008. Also working on WP/CZ recipe book reprint for 2009.

*Stiles* - Advised Scott Franklin was planning on sealing the entry road on Oct. 14 and asked for available volunteers to assist. Further advised that the Model T runs, but still needs an oil pan.

### Committee Reports

*Railfan Photographer's Day* - Director McClure reported that RPD went well with between 70-80 paid participants. Train line up, food, night photo sessions and photography seminars were all highly praised. Financial report to be presented at a later date.

*Train Sheet* - Director Vicknair advised he would be looking for everyone's cooperation and assistance with his outlined Operations Plan.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:48 PM and reconvened to open session at 8:09 PM. Director McClure reported the following:

"The Board heard a report regarding ongoing litigation, FRRS v. Kasten, ITAC. Consensus direction given, no action taken. The Board further heard a report regarding a proprietary equipment issue. Consensus direction given, no action taken."

---

## November 2007 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - approved motion 07-11-02.

. Minutes - Minutes from the October 2007 BOD Meeting. Removed by motion 07-11-01.

. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end October 2007.

2. Business Motions

#### **Motion 07-11-03**

##### 2007 Santa Trains

Cancellation of Santa Trains for 2007.

McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 4, Nay - 2, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-11-04**

##### WPRM Brochures - Urgency Addition

Addition of Item of Urgency to Agenda, specifically to discuss RAL pricing in conjunction with production of WPRM Brochures.

Vicknair / McClure. Aye - 5, Nay - 1, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-11-05**

##### RAL Pricing

Adopt change in RAL pricing to Plan "A" - \$150.00, Plan "B" - \$175, Plan "C" - \$275.

McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-11-06**

##### WPRM Brochure Printing

Discussion and action on item tabled until October meeting.

Brehm / Habeck. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 07-11-07**

##### Foley Brothers 110-1 Storage

Agree to store locomotive for CSRM.

Stiles / none. Motion died for lack of a second.  
Consensus direction to President McClure to continue discussion and bring further

developments before the Board.

#### **Motion 07-11-08**

##### Deaccession of Railbike

Motion to give non-operational Railbike to Black Butte Center for Railroad Culture.

Stiles / McClure. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Actions and Notices**

- FRRS Membership Appreciation Day - Responsibility for planning of this event assigned to Tom Carter and Alicia LaBreque by consensus direction of the Board.
- Museum Manager Walker and Director Monger provided a presentation regarding their trip to the ARM convention in Pennsylvania.
- Member James Mason working on proposal for an annual award to be given by the society to other organizations in recognition of their preservation efforts. Also continuing work with the Boy Scouts of America on a railroading and other badge program.
- Member Merrill Thurman announced a \$100 match to a \$50 challenge from Director Vicknair for purchase of the Z-Scale WP model railroad. He also passed a hat and challenged everyone in the room to put all of their pocket change in it for the Society. A total of \$224.83 was raised.

#### **President's Report**

- Preparations for movement of Silver Plate continue.
- CCT Caboose 24 being prepped for movement.
- Pursuing scrapping of deaccessioned / non-historic equipment on property.
- Work continues to progress on Silver Debris.

#### **Museum Manager's Report**

- Closing facility down for season
- Has information on volunteer accident insurance.
- Portola Area Historical Society donated \$50 toward Santa Trains.
- Thanks to California Conservation Corp for work done on property this year.
- Thanks from Cub Scout Pack #159 and Chester Elementary School tours.

#### **Director's Reports**

*McClure* - Special thanks to Merrill Thurman for his loan of the monies to purchase the Z-scale layout as well as pickup and transport from Wisconsin to Portola at no charge to the Society.



Also thanked James Mason for his continued dedication and drive to see the Silver Debris Project to completion through donations of labor and funds.

*Stiles* - Reported completion of seal coating of entry road. Advised there is a section of roadway that has deteriorated to the point it will have to be removed/replaced/repared.

### Department Reports

*Train Sheet* - Train Sheet issue 138 at the publisher and issue 139 in layout.

### Committee Reports

*Model Railroad* - Report presented by Committee Chairmen David Epling and Tom Carter. Consensus direction in support of the definition and scope of the Committee given by Board. Committee requested to submit written policy / description for February meeting with listing of goals and benefits to Society. Addition of members Russ Johnson and Merrill Thurman. Thanked Joe D'Amato with Microtrains who donated a locomotive to the z-scale layout and indicated they might be open to special run WP equipment.

*Membership* - Announced discontinuation of half-priced memberships at the end of 2007.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:37 PM and reconvened to open session at 6:48 PM. Director McClure reported the following:

"The Board heard an information report regarding a proprietary equipment issue. No action taken. The Board then heard a report regarding a personnel issue. No action taken. Lastly, the Board heard a report regarding an ongoing legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten, ITAC. Consensus direction was given, no action taken."

## December 2007 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

Director Hank Stiles resigned from the Board effective November 10, 2007 due to personal reasons. The Board thanks him for his years of gracious service.

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - approved motions as listed.

. Minutes - Minutes from the October and November 2007 BOD Meetings.  
 . Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end November 2007.

Motion 07-12-01 - separate minutes from Consent Calendar. Motion carries.

Motion 07-12-02 - approve Consent Calendar as amended. Motion carries.

Motion 07-12-03 - approve October minutes as presented. Motion carries.

Motion 07-12-04 - approve November minutes as corrected. Motion carries.

### 2. Business Motions

none

### Actions and Notices

- Foley Brothers locomotive storage - Consensus direction provided to President McClure to pursue a verbal agreement followed by a written one concerning five years of storage with CSRM. Agreement to be brought back to the Board prior to signature for approval.
- Santa Train 2008 Committee - Creation of an Ad Hoc committee to plan and execute a 2008 Santa Train event. Committee consists of Directors Monger, Habeck and Parker.

### President's Report

- Advised we have been given cabooses UP 24592, SP 4606 and UP 903568 by the UP.
- Scrapping of deaccessed equipment to begin after Christmas Holidays. Hoping to generate a minimum of \$10,000 for the organization.
- Movement of the Silver Plate pending UMLER certification and AEI Tags.

### Museum Manager's Report

- Railbike has been removed by new owners.
- Facility has been winterized.
- Has received very little feedback from the local community regarding cancellation of Santa Trains for 2007.
- Expressed thanks from Nevada State Railroad Museum for donation of some V&T materials from our Archives.

### Director's Reports

*Monger* - Advised he had attended memorial services for long time railfan and museum supporter Roy Gabriel at CSRM. Noted that rumors are there is a new WP book being written by authors Ted Benson, Dick Dorn, David

Stanley and Dale Sanders.

### Department Reports

*Train Sheet* - Issue 138 gone to mailing, 139 almost ready for print, special roster issue, 140 and 141 in layout. Reminded all that articles were due by end of December.

*Maintenance of Way* - Dodgepole Siding has been extended as far as it can go at this time. Thanks to all who meet the challenge of pounding a few spikes each day they were at the museum.

### Committee Reports

*Election Committee* - Election processes progressing as planned. Currently six nominations for three open seats.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 3:14 PM and reconvened to open session at 3:17 PM. Director McClure reported the following:

"The Board heard a report regarding an ongoing legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten, ITAC. Consensus direction was given, no action taken."

## January 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

Special

#### Motion 08-01-01

Vacant Board Seat

Appointment of Merrill Thurman to open seat previously occupied by Director Cochran for the balance of that term. Mr. Thurman received the highest level of votes below lowest winning candidate in last election.

Vicknair / McClure. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

1. Consent Motions - removed motion 08-01-02.

. Minutes - Minutes from the December 2007 BOD Meeting.

. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end December 2007.

2. Business Motions

none

### Actions and Notices

- Report from scrapper that work had not yet started on deaccessed equipment due to disagreeable weather conditions.
- The Board considered a request from Matt Shuman, President, Shasta Cascade Rail Preservation Society, to participate in Dunsmuir Railroad Days 2008, scheduled for June 13-15. Consensus direction from the Board to proceed.
- Consensus direction provided by the Board to allow the Model Railroad Committee to utilize the SP 1337 Caboose for a dedicated storage/workshop area.
- Consensus direction to set up an Ad Hoc Committee to plan and execute fundraising in support of the 2009 Campaign. President McClure appointed James Mason as the Committee Chair, Director Vicknair as the Board-Committee Liaison. Mr. Mason is to appoint his committee members and Director Vicknair is to keep the Board apprised of their progress.
- Consensus direction to proceed with work recommended by Director Vicknair including a basic reassembly and "cocooning" to protect the structure from further deterioration. Estimated cost for this phase is \$40,000.

### President's Report

- Silver Plate work complete soon including UMLER entry and AEI tags.
- Insurance Policy renewed for another year.

### Director's Reports

*Parker* - Involved with getting webcam running when down in December. Advised he found the information provided from ARM Convention to be interesting reading.

*Vicknair* - New front webpage complete, on-line.

### Department Reports

*Train Sheet* - Two issues in mail, one at printer and one in layout.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 2:51 PM and reconvened to open session at 3:08 PM. Director McClure reported the following:

"The Board heard a report regarding an ongoing legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten, ITAC. Consensus direction was given, no action taken."

## January 2008 Special Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

This meeting was called on January 15, 2008 to discuss three items of urgency with the Board of Directors that were unable to hold until the regularly scheduled February Board Meeting.

### Motions Passed

#### Motion 08-01S-01

Scrapping of ex-Amtrak Power Generator Car Authorization to proceed with scrapping of ex-Amtrak Power Generator Car.

Brehm / Thurman. Aye - 4, Nay - 1, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-01S-02

Status of MRS-1 544

Approval to move forward with completion and/or annulment of contract with Doug Morgan regarding MRS-1 544.

Thurman / Vicknair. Aye - 5, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

### Derailment Incident

President McClure reported an incident had occurred on Saturday, January 12, 2008. Four cars derailed and about 150' of track was damaged. Speculation is that ice buildup in the flangeways was the cause. No official cause has been determined. Incident is under investigation by the Superintendent of Operations.

The Board expressed satisfaction at being notified of the situation immediately and will withhold any further action or comment pending completion of the investigation.

## February 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - removed motion 08-02-01.

. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end January 2008.

2. Business Motions

#### Motion 08-02-02

California Association of Museums Convention

Motion to send Director Monger to CAM convention in Fresno, February 25-27. Director Monger to pay expenses (\$275 registration fee) and submit for reimbursement later.

Holmes / Brehm. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-02-03

March Meeting Date Change

Motion to change the March BOD Meeting date to March 1, 2008.

Brehm / Monger. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

### Actions and Notices

- Director Monger discussed the possible targeted closure of Plumas-Eureka State Park. He proposes that FRRS offer of temporary home to the P-E docents group. Vice-President Habeck proposed sending a letter to P-E docents offering to talk about options, signed by President McClure. Consensus direction to draft a sample letter and bring to Board.

### Museum Manager's Report

- Museum is basically snowed in. Three feet of snow on ground. Snow drift in the building, 1-1/2' high due to broken windows.
- Flooding in the display room and gift shop. Water in electric room.
- Gift Shop receipts down \$57,000 over last year.

### Director's Reports

*Monger* - Thanked David Epling and Director Vicknair for great update of website. Suggested bid auction to ride the rotary next time it operates in the snow.

*Parker* - Showed Rotary video from recent operation. Copies were delivered to various TV news channels. KNRV aired it, as did KREN under banner saying "Western Pacific Railroad Museum". Also posted on YouTube.

### Department Reports

*Operations* - VP Habeck reported basic info on possible ice derailment and that an investigation is ongoing. Also talked about clean-up. About 200 ft. of track to repair, plus maybe put in a switch that has been proposed for several years. Damage to track and ties, not equipment. Director Monger is projecting early April to repair track. Loren Ross, Superintendent of Operations, is doing investigation.

*Gift Shop* - Director Vicknair is assisting John Walker in exploring set up of gift card sales and

a ringtone store. Director Monger reports that Athearn is coming out with WP Fs in Genesis line, including 917 and 921.

### Committee Reports

*Model Railroad* - Merrill Thurman has changed his loan to acquire the Z scale into an outright donation. Bob Sims is donating \$1000 in money and equipment to FRRS for the Z Scale. Nick Larusso is also donating equipment to the Z Scale. MicroTrains is looking at custom WP stuff. Committee Chair David Epling also has HO scale stuff from Frank Brehm. He thanked Board for giving committee use of the SP caboose 1337.

*Election* - Report on those declared to run: Matt Parker, Frank Brehm (both incumbents), Doug Morgan, Charlie Spikes, John Walker, Rod McClure. Nominees have until end of month to confirm running.

*Donations* - Bob Sims also donated money to the archives.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 1:57 PM and reconvened to open session at 2:23 PM. VP Habeck reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard 4 reports on various items, 1 legal issue, 1 personnel issue and 2 business issues. Information was given, no reportable action taken."

## March 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Appointment of Department Heads

President McClure announced an adjustment to department heads:

- Director Monger is now in charge of Grant Writing and Funding Department, including thank you letters, tracking, etc.

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - removed motion 08-03-01.

. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end February 2008.

2. Business Motions

### Motion 08-03-02

Diesel Shop Windows

Approve budget of \$3000 from line item 70005

on a funds available basis to replace windows on north side of Diesel Shop with plexiglass due to ice breakage.

McClure / Brehm. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

### Motion 08-03-03

Derailment Report

Report to be forwarded to directors for their review and tabled until April meeting.

Brehm / McClure. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0. Motion carried.

### Museum Manager Position

John Walker resigned from Museum Manager position effective Feb. 13. He took a job with Nevada State RR Museum. FRRS wishes him well. He has offered to assist with some duties while we find a replacement to handle at least the Gift Shop and RAL scheduling. Consensus direction given to form search committee, look for candidates and review issues raised in discussion. Search committee is President Rod McClure and John Walker.

### Actions and Notices

- Discussion of plans for special train runs for 2009 events. FRRS is working with UP to get firm date. Jim Ley and Phil Schmeirr are working on WP related historical markers.
- Discussion on the idea of charging admission to non-members. Consensus direction given to explore this further as part of events for 2009.

### President's Report

- CSRM is donating surplus rolling stock. We have been offered WP 70' beer box, one of the first steel mechanical PFE refrigerator cars, WP Mt. Vernon wood boxcar and an early SN flat car. Consensus direction to pursue.
- Scrappers have stopped until snow melts. Will return, finish and clean-up the grounds.
- Has received tentative email request from Reno Airstream group looking at restoring the WP Airstream trailer we have. Will get more info.
- Should have rate to move CCT 24 caboose next week. Need to air test CCT 24 and then it will be ready to move.

### Director's Reports

*McClure* - Merrill Thurman made a loan to acquire Z Scale layout last year. This was canceled in exchange for donation letter, which will be going out next week. Also, Bob Sims has donated \$6000 to split as follows: \$2000 archives, \$1000 Z scale and \$3000 general fund.

*Thurman* - Reported an email from David Epling offering to take on Museum Manager position.  
*Monger* - CAM conference was interesting. High points: 1 - IRS form 990 is becoming more important to non-profits. Non-profit watchdog groups are using 990s as evaluation tool to advise large donors. 2 - May 7 is state museum action day. There will be a meet and greet with state legislators. Monger going, Vicknair and Parker to try and make it.

*Holmes* - Has PLA group coming up Wednesday to do an RAL. Will be at museum for 4 hours.

*Habeck* - Will be around to help with RAL. Will run rotary to clear track. Spent about 6 hours on backhoe clearing out snow. Opened drainage to get water running away from building. Still about 38" of snow on the dock.

### Department Reports

*Advertising* - Trains Mag ad has been renewed. RAL ad has been canceled based on John Walker's recommendation. Yellow Pages have been renewed. Plumas County visitor directory has been renewed. Parker instructed to continue looking at billboards. Also asked to look at what summertime events are going on in the area, Graeagle, etc.

*Information Tech* - Webcam is updating every 5 seconds automatically. Running out of bandwidth. Timing will be reset to 10 seconds. Bruce asked for PayPal button on cam page and discussed adding some Virtual Private Network services to system.

### Committee Reports

*Election* - No candidates have withdrawn.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:11 PM and reconvened to open session at 8:27 PM. Secretary Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten / ITAC. Information was given, no reportable action taken."

---

*Any member in good standing may request a complete copy of the transcript of board meetings from the Society. There is a nominal charge for each copy which covers postage and administrative costs. Full minutes are posted on the FRRSlist hosted by Yahoo Groups.*

## 2007 RAILFAN PHOTOGRAPHER DAY

- Matt Parker, Director

Dawn broke cold and a dusting of snow flocked the ground on the morning of Saturday, September 29. Approximately 78 attendees were not deterred as they arrived to participate in WPRM's 2007 Railfan Photographer Day. Those who came were treated to what became a gorgeous, sunny fall day in the Sierra punctuated by an ambitious line-up of trains representing railroading on the Western Pacific and other western rail lines from the period of the late 50's through the early 70's. This line-up included 11 trains featuring the museum's preserved motive power and rolling stock.

Operating crews this year traded their purple Ops Department t-shirts and hats for clothing representative of the same period as their trains. Those who volunteered for crew positions did an outstanding job in their wardrobe choices, right down to the stub of a stogie hanging from Charlie Spikes' mouth as he worked as Engineer on Crew B. Even Dispatcher Wayne Monger, who planned the line-up of trains well in advance of the event, was dressed accordingly.

Once the first runs were complete, lunch was served in the Diesel Shop. Event Director Gail McClure was assisted by Eugene Vicknair, mass-producing the hot dogs and hamburgers on our new grill, recently donated by member Bill Parker. Volunteers including Ed Powell, Judy Casados, and Laura Casados helped serve.

Following lunch, noted railfan photographers Ryan Martin and Alex Ramos presented a seminar on digital photography. Held in our classroom/meeting room/party lounge also known as Sacramento Northern caboose 1642, the seminar covered topics including camera manufacturers, the pros and cons of digital photography vs. film, photo composition, lighting, and making photos interesting. They also included a live demonstration on the use of Adobe Photoshop CS for editing and improving the quality of digital photos. Event Director McClure pointed out this was the first time such a presentation was included in this event, adding that the efforts put forth by these two gentlemen produced a noteworthy class. Once the seminar was completed, it was time for those attending to practice what they learned recording the afternoon runs.

An interest in the WP drew visitor Norm Hogg from Arvada, Colorado to the event. "It's great to see other interests represented, like the SP," he added as he waited for the passing of the next train at the Inside Balloon switch during the afternoon. Visitor Jim Maurer of San Jose, California said he had taken 300 photos by dinnertime. It was the first attendance at Railfan Photographer Day for both visitors, and they were very impressed by the lineup of trains.

With the afternoon runs complete, dinner was offered, featuring a full-course menu of delicious foods prepared by Event Director Gail McClure. Gail was again assisted by Eugene as well as Wendy Holtz and Judy and Laura Casados.

At about 8 PM, after dinner and two initial slide shows, Vic Neves shared his special expertise by leading the traditional Night Photo Session. Vic's assistance with this special feature actually began on the way to the Museum Saturday morning, as he made an extra stop at the home of Dave Stanley to borrow a flash gun that took the place of Vic's own equipment (temporarily "missing in action" as the result of a lengthy home rebuilding project). Vic recruited several assistants to help with the flash guns, as well as members of the Ops Department who turned lights on the locomotives on and off on cue.

This could be one of the last times we use the classic flash bulbs for night shooting. We have just enough FRRS-owned bulbs remaining in our stock at Portola (which the FRRS purchased about 12 years ago) to do only one more Night Photo session!! There has been a lot of talk concerning the purchase of a new Lumedyne electronic flash unit to take the place of the traditional (and now extremely expensive and nearly impossible to find) flash bulbs. Estimated system cost of \$1,500...give or take...

A total of 32 photographers from around the United States participated in the Night Photo Session. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the FRRS Operating Department crews that day, there were 3 separate subjects to photograph. The first was the "Big Jack Sandwich" (also known as a "Fast 40 Sandwich") with Union Pacific DDA40X 6936, SD40-2 3656 and DDA40X 6946 (6936 and 3656 appearing courtesy of Union Pacific), shot from two separate photo angles. This lash-up was attached to the large 1970's Freight Train and was facing east at

Milward Switch/Sewer Crossing location. The second subject was a WP passenger train consisting of WP locos FP7 805-A, F9Bu 926-C, and F7A 917-D leading the FRRS baggage car and two of our CZ dome cars. This train was staged in the same location but facing west on the Dodgepole Siding track. The group of photographers then moved over to Track #1 at the west end of the diesel shop where GP7s 707 and 712 were coupled together facing west with a WP boxcar and cabooses behind. The night shoots were finished by 9:45 PM, just prior to the nearly-full moon rising high enough to have ruined the photo set-ups. Most of the participants then returned to the "warmer" insides of the diesel shop to get out of the freezing weather and watch more slide shows, including the 1982 WP Altamont Detour show put together for the WPRRHS Convention earlier this year by Wayne Monger.

The WPRM Operating Department rose to the challenge of assembling and running trains with a large turnout of members to accomplish the work. The moving and staging of equipment began on Monday prior to the event and continued through Thursday, with crews putting in approximately 8 hours per day. Those helping with some last minute moves on Friday evening were treated to a brief yet intense blast of horizontal rain and snow characteristic of winter weather in Portola. Yardmaster Steve Habeck was assisted in these efforts by Ops volunteers Loren Ross, Bill Parker, Craig Simmons, Seth Adams, Nick Tynan, Charlie Spikes, David Epling and Tim Carter. Responsibility for operating trains on event day was split between two crews.: Crew A with Engineer Loren Ross, Fireman Bill Parker, Conductor David Epling, and Brakeman Seth Adams, and Crew B with Engineer Charlie Spikes, Fireman Tim Carter, Fireman Craig Simmons, Conductor Tom Andrews, and Brakeman Rick Gruninger. Extra crewmen were Nick Tynan tending switches and Cody Wilson covering assignments as needed. Mechanical needs were attended to by Hank Stiles and Alan Hirasawa.

Gail McClure also acknowledged the efforts of Wayne Monger for planning the consists and Norm Holmes for working access and admissions at the gate as being essential in making this year's Railfan Photographer Day event an outstanding success.

*Wayne Monger assisted with this article*

## - FRRS Membership -

### Yearly Dues

Associate \$20.00  
 Active \$40.00  
 Family \$60.00  
 Sustaining \$100.00

### Single Life Membership

Birth-17 years of age \$1200.00  
 Age 18-39 \$900.00  
 Age 40-61 \$600.00  
 Age 62 and above \$300.00

### Family Life Membership

Birth-17 years of age \$1800.00  
 Age 18-39 \$1350.00  
 Age 40-61 \$900.00  
 Age 62 and above \$450.00

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.  
 Five year payment plans are available for life memberships.

**Associate** memberships do not have a vote, receive The Train Sheet but not the Headlight and are for one person only.  
**Active** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only.  
**Family** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have one vote and include all members of ones immediate family.

**Sustaining** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and Headlight, maximum of two persons with one vote each.  
**Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only for life.  
**Family Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, are for a maximum of two people and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes to:

Feather River Rail Society - Membership Dept. - P.O. Box 608 - Portola, CA 96122-0608

Address changes may also be sent to [membership@wplives.org](mailto:membership@wplives.org)



### STEAM PROGRESS...

Nathan Osborn and James Cowdry, two of the new volunteers who have signed on as part of the WP 165 Restoration, examine the boiler shell and discuss strategies while mapping it to determine shell thickness and overall condition. Work on WP 165 became very visible in 2007 and is looking at making some major progress during 2008. Regular updates can be found on the website at: <http://steam.wplives.org>.

*- photo by Chris Allan, Steam CMO*

### Mission Statement

---

"The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public, as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."

### Mission Goals

---

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "Willing People" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads. WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.



*Since the park opened in February 2001, the California Zephyr has greeted visitors to Disney's California Adventure. While the proportions are heavily modified to fit the needs of the area, it is still an impressive reproduction. With the recently announced reconstruction of California Adventure, it is unknown how long the replica "Silver Lady" will remain.*  
-photos by Tom Carter

## **The Train Sheet**

Feather River Rail Society  
P.O. Box 608  
Portola, CA 96122-0608

Change Service Requested