

**Feather River Rail Society
Annual Membership Meeting
June 4, 2005 -- 7:00 p.m.
The Diesel Shop, Portola Railroad Museum
Portola, California**

President Rod McClure called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m. after dinner and dessert. The following directors were present:

Frank Brehm	Kerry Cochran	Steve Habeck	Norm Holmes
Gail McClure	Wayne Monger		

Members present:

Heather Elmore	David Epling	Alan Hirasawa	John S. Hittner
Barbara Holmes	Brittany Knudson	Jay Knudson	Linda Knudsen
James H. Mason	Lynda Monger	Chelsey Norton	Jack Palmer
Matt Parker	Ed Powell	Kenneth Roller	Jay Sarno
Craig Simmons	Sandy Simmons	Ed Wagner	Jack Zygnier
Jan Zygnier			

President's Report to the Membership

President McClure began the meeting by thanking Gail McClure for the wonderful dinner she cooked for the group. He then turned the floor over to Elections Committee chairman, Ed Wagner.

Election Committee Report

Mr. Wagner thanked Vic and Annie Neves and John McCormick for their assistance with preparation and mailing of the ballots. There were 903 ballots mailed, four returned as undeliverable, and 306 received back. The ballots were counted and the election certified June 3, 2005. The tellers for the election were members David Epling, Loren Ross and Charlie Spikes.

Once again this year ballots included commentary that the elections were a waste of money and asked that the membership be reminded that under our non-profit incorporation and the laws of the state of California, we are required to have annual elections. Failure to do so could result in repercussions from the Attorney General's office. David Epling was asked to address the election results.

Mr. Epling reported the following election results:

Frank Brehm: 375	Matt Parker: 365	Hank Stiles: 364
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Several other members received write in votes including David Epling, Andy Carlson, Pat Brimmer, Tommy Hall, Doug Morgan, Tom Graham, Thom Anderson, Steve Hayes, John Walker and Vic Neves.

Mr. Epling returned the floor to Mr. Wagner. Mr. Wagner spoke about his experiences as Election Committee Chairman and how he considered his time spent as "A way of giving back" to the Society for the fun and experiences he has had over the years. He offered special thanks to all the members who took the time to vote. He also offered his resignation from the position, which was accepted by the Board of Directors with great thanks for his work in coordinating the processes and assisting with streamlining the procedures for future volunteers to the position.

President's Report to the Membership (cont.)

President McClure introduced the newest member to the Board of Directors, Matt Parker, who replaces Andy Anderson. He also offered his profound thanks for Mr. Anderson's years of service both on the Board and as a member.

He then reported on the financial state of the organization. We are off to a slow start with revenues this year due to the late winter. There is hope that once the weather warms, visitorship and spending will increase which will allow us the opportunity to continue with restorations including the Troop Sleeper, WP 165, Silver Hostel.

Last year saw surplus equipment leaving Portola and headed for their new homes including one SP Beet Gon, SP 1215, and Simplot 4004 (RS-32). New equipment was acquired including SP 1100 (TR-6A), WP 705 (GP7), WP 39' steel gondola, WP 917 (F7), SN 712 (GP7), WP 483 caboose (sister to WP 484), UP 25732 caboose (CA-10), Amtrak power car (F3B), TTX 50' single trailer flat car, MRS-1 #612 and #614, UP 8312 RPO Car and SPMW 208 / SPMW 224 (Rotary snowplow and power unit).

President McClure commented on the return of a number of old members as well as the addition of many new faces. He reminded all important projects with which they could be of assistance, including renovation of the Silver Debris to a Volunteer Lounge, reconstruction/reassembly of Magnolia Tower, and restoration of the Western Pacific Portola Hospital.

Director's Reports to the Membership

At this time, he yielded the floor to Vice President Frank Brehm. Director Brehm spoke to the members present regarding The Trainsheet and its importance as a tool to keep the membership informed regarding developments at the Museum and how everyone can help with the work that needs to be done. He apologized to the membership for the publication not always being on time due to busy schedules for him and for those who contribute articles. Lastly, he thanked the membership for their support and positive comments regarding the layout and content of The Trainsheet.

Director Kerry Cochran then took the floor to present this year's Gladhand Award winner. He explained that the intent of the Gladhand Award was to recognize members who had demonstrated outstanding commitment to the FRRS over time. Normally, there is only one winner per year, however, two individuals were selected due to their outstanding support and work: John Walker and Hank Stiles.

Mr. Walker briefly addressed the members present regarding the philosophy behind the inception of the museum and why he continues to be involved since joining in May 1984. He remains committed to the success and growth of the organization.

Director Cochran noted that while Mr. Stiles (also a Director) was not present, he congratulated him in absentia for the dedication and years of hard work Mr. Stiles has given to the Society, and which is recognized in the presentation of the Gladhand Award.

Director Steve Habeck then addressed the membership. He spoke about how it is the volunteers who are responsible for many of the day to day "small chores" that benefit the organization. He also advised of how tight we are for space and how this helps demonstrate our success with respect to our preservation efforts. He noted that we have many challenges to overcome, but as in the past, dedicated work of our members and volunteers will make it happen. Lastly, he commented on the fact that we continue to have the opportunity to operate our equipment outside the fence, often on short notice and with many demands by our host railroads, but we manage to perform flawlessly which has given us an excellent reputation, both in the Museum and Railfan communities.

Director Holmes was asked to speak to the group. He told the members present that 22 years ago, when the Museum and the Society were first formed, he never dreamed the organization would be where it is today. He was proud of the tremendous amount of progress that the last few years had brought and prouder still that he had been able to have a hand in that progress. He specifically recognized President Rod McClure and Director Steve Habeck for their work in allowing the Museum and the FRRS to have an influence "outside of the fence."

Director Wayne Monger took the floor. He thanked President Rod McClure and Director Gail McClure for their guidance toward a bright future for the organization. He also spoke of the need for the members to support the Society financially, including consideration of planned giving. He stressed the importance about how member donations would foster growth of the FRRS and how individuals could create a legacy at the Museum which continued to give after they were gone. Financial stability will be the key to future growth and prosperity in our goal of preserving the WP.

Director Gail McClure was asked to address the membership. She announced that member Dan O'Connor, Structural (NV) and Civil (CA, NV) Engineer had completed a basic structural analysis and report of the Western Pacific Portola Hospital. His conclusion was that most, if not all, of the structure is sound and is a candidate for an adaptive reuse, restoration project. The report was nearly two years in the making and represents the first step in a comprehensive fundraising plan to restore the facility which will house a library and climate controlled archive, administrative offices, meeting rooms, an interpretive wing focusing on the role railroad hospitals played in the development of industrial medicine and possibly a small theatre. She also complimented the membership in their overwhelming financial support through fundraisers for general and specific projects. She also announce the winner of the raffle tied to the most current mail-out fundraising campaign (results to be announced in a future edition of The Train Sheet). She encouraged the membership to continue their financial support of the organization to allow for continued preservation and restoration efforts.

Member Comments

Member Ken Roller asked to address the members present. He spoke about his past experiences as part of the organization, and how he was pleased and impressed by the changes. He stated that while we still have a long way to go, continued hard work will get us there. He thanked past and present members and volunteers for what their efforts have achieved and that he is proud to be part of an organization that has what is probably one of the finest collections of railroad artifacts in Northern California.

Member and newly elected Board member, Matt Parker, thanked everyone who had a part in the recent Bay Area Electric Railway Association/Feather River Rail Society trade and equipment move. He stated that it was a living testimonial to the organization. He also recognized Vice President Frank Brehm for his volunteer work on many of our ventures to outside venues and his good natured acceptance of the teasing he takes from many of the others involved with these projects. He also thanked President McClure and Director Habeck for their personal sacrifices in making these events happen. Lastly, he spoke to the fact that in his experience with volunteer organizations, many have a very difficult time getting people involved, but that enthusiasm is infectious and he has been bitten. He indicated he believes others will be as well and participation in projects will grow.

John Walker provided final commentary regarding volunteers and relating a memory of talking with his dad about the challenges of working as a volunteer and with volunteers. He also reminisced about his experiences early on with Mr. Parker and Director Monger and how they worked side-by-side. He concluded his remarks by complimenting Director Habeck with regard to his dedication to the organization over the years.

With no further remarks from the membership, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.