

Zephyr Project Update

By Eugene Vicknair

I've had a few questions filter back to me about progress on the Silver Hostel. While some work has been occurring, there has been less change to the car for people to see. However, work behind the scenes has been accelerating, primarily on trying to solve the window situation.

A trip in early summer brought us into contact with several new sources, including a gentleman rebuilding the CZ dome-obs car "Silver Lookout", Mr. Dirk Lenthe. The workmanship and design features on this charter rebuild are spectacular and he and his team have graciously offered to assist us in solving any issues with the Hostel. We spoke at length about the window situation and Mr. Lenthe has expanded on the knowledge we have gained from other car owners. I know feel we have the right specifications for windows that will best serve the functional and historical needs of the car. We have been in contact with several vendors, including the shop that will be fabricating the new dome frames and gaskets for us and we are finalizing the over manufacturing spec for the windows. At that point, the only issue remaining will be money as we are still some \$20-25,000 short on the capital needed.

Many people has played an major part in figuring out the best approach to the window issue. My thanks to Dirk Lenthe, Burt Hermey, Roy Wullich, Forest Keaton and the staff at Colorado Railroad Museum, Richard Freeman of Freetech Plastics and everyone else.

With assistance from some of these same sources, we should be able to replace the long-missing nameboards on the car soon. We have a source for correct lettering and are securing

quotes on the proper size stainless steel plate. Once these are in hand, the replacement boards will be ordered.

We are hoping to have one more work weekend before the snows come in. Eric McClure has been invaluable for his continuing work stripping the old material out of the dome, stairs and bar area. We are nearly ready to begin laying the new subfloor in the dome and reinsulating the dome walls after the conduits and other interior items are inspected. Once the flooring and insulation are in, we can begin priming and reinstalling the dome interior walls. After we have discovered the proper wall color and carpet design, we can finish painting and carpeting the dome.

Thank you, Eric!!

Thanks to the assistance of Burt Hermey and Roy Wullich, several issues are moving forward on the Silver Hostel. Freetech Plastics in Fremont, CA is currently evaluating some original dome glass loaned by Mr. Hermey. They are exploring the possibility of making molds for hot forming polycarbonate panes for the Budd cars. Hot forming would reduce many of the issues that currently plague polycarbonate (lexan) dome windows and make them more durable and attractive to use. If they can be made to an acceptable specification, the plan is to use the polycarbonate as the outer pane and tempered glass on the inside. They would allow the Hostel to have double pane windows as it originally did while still meeting FRA glass standards.

Also, we have ordered the proper sized replacement train and car name boards for the Hostel. Thanks to Mr. Hermey for dimensions and Mr. Wullich for the lettering diagram. John Walker also helped with some crucial information. Tom Carter has arranged for high quality vinyl lettering to me made based on diagrams made by myself and Frank Brehm. It is hoped that the new name boards will be ready in a relatively short time.

Feather River Rail Society Statement of Activities Year Ended December 31, 2002

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions	\$ 84,361	\$ 5,466	\$ -	89,827
Membership dues	20,978	-	3,450	24,428
Gift shop sales	46,721	-	-	46,721
Train operations	63,930	-	-	63,930
Investment return	1,116	-	3,352	10,775
Sale of Investments	157	-	-	157
Other	5,645	-	-	5,645
Net assets released from restrictions				
Projects Completed	12,056	(7,081)	(4,975)	-
TOTAL REVENUES, GAINS, AND OTHER SUPPORT	234,964	1,737	4,782	241,483
EXPENSES				
Program Services	95,941	-	-	95,941
Supporting Services				
Management and general	91,551	-	-	91,551
Fund-raising	16,730	-	-	16,730
TOTAL EXPENSES	204,222	-	-	204,222
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	30,742	1,737	4,782	37,261
NET ASSETS AT BEGINNING	2,235,302	88,703	159,193	2,483,198
NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ 2,266,044	\$ 90,440	\$ 163,975	\$ 2,520,459