

WPRRHS 2007 CONVENTION

- Thom Anderson, WPRRHS Administrator

The 11th annual WPRRHS convention was held in April at the Doubletree Club Hotel in Livermore, California. Over 130 people were in attendance, including two long-distance champions: one from Australia and one from Sweden. Everyone present appeared to have an enjoyable time, experiencing ten super presentations and sharing the camaraderie of talking with other WP fans there. Photos of the convention appeared in the latest issue of the Headlight.

A wide variety of subjects were presented, from the history of the Spanish Peak Lumber Company (located in the Feather River country) and modeling WP maintenance of way cars, to the rock trains that WP ran to Pleasanton. Other notable shows included Dale Sanders presentation on WP's locomotive mounted snowplows and Loren Dunlap's presentation of WP collectables. There were also several modeling clinics and virtual tours of some fabulous model railroad layouts. Wayne Monger, Kirk Baer and Bob Larson showed slides of WP from their collections.

Several vendors selling WP-related items were also in attendance. Several donations from local retailers and manufacturers including Walthers, Atlas, The Train Shop, Kadee, InterMountain, Super Art Media, Tom's Trackage Trains, Hobbies Unlimited, Pentrex, the WPRM Gift Shop, and others made for another successful raffle to generate funds for the WPRRHS Arthur W. Keddie Library & Archives. Annette Wright and her crew at the Doubletree did an outstanding job making our group feel at home in their facility.

Art Lloyd, who was employed for several years in the WP's Passenger and Public Relations departments, gave a heartfelt and completely unscripted talk after the banquet about his experiences on the WP, and his belief that the California Zephyr was the greatest passenger train. There was no argument from anyone there, and the Society greatly appreciates his taking the time to join us. Those that were at the Chico convention a year earlier will recall that Art was scheduled to speak there, but was unable to do so account of an unanticipated medical problem.

Trains Unlimited Tours donated a round trip for two from Oakland to Reno on a private passenger car to attend Portola Railroad Days. After Art's talk, the trip was auctioned, and the proceeds added to the Library fund.

Jim Dias and I extend our thanks to Art and all of the presenters, and to those who donated their time and products for their generous efforts to make the convention a success. Jim and I could not have done it without their help. A special "thank you" goes to Annie Neves and Barbara Anderson for their help at the registration table, Vic Neves for again handling the AV chores, and to Gail McClure for "leading the charge" selling raffle tickets.

Tom Campbell and his crew are in the process of organizing next year's convention at the Clarion Mansion Inn in Sacramento, California on April 11-12, 2008. He has set up an e-mail address for questions at wpcon2008@yahoo.com. A link to the site is also at the WPRRHS website. We hope to see you there!

- Norman Holmes and Eugene Vicknair also contributed to this report.

MORE TRAIN SHEET CHANGES

- Eugene Vicknair, Train Sheet Editor

Due to a slowdown in contributions and some production problems, the publication of the Train Sheet has fallen behind. We have now instituted a number of changes to streamline production of the Train Sheet and increase the usable submissions of news and information for the membership.

Currently, we are also bringing out two special issues to help bridge the gap. If you have not already received Issue 139, you should receive it shortly. This issue highlights our growing archive collection, giving the membership a glimpse into the variety and depth of photos, paperwork and other small items that are now in the FRRS collection. Issue 141 will focus on the rolling stock held at the museum, including histories

and photos of some of our significant pieces.

We are also expanding the staff of the Train Sheet, adding an associate editor and production assistants. Finally, new options for printing and mailing are being researched with an eye toward lowering our press and shipping times.

In other news, the e-mail / PDF version of the Train Sheet has seen a steadily growing rate of sign-ups. Currently, about 6% of the membership are receiving their newsletter electronically. Starting with this issue, we are offering some color photos in the PDF version.

We have also received reports of members not receiving their Train Sheets due to issues with the post office. If you have missed recent issues, or ever feel you have missed an issue, please contact the editor at TrainSheet@wplives.org. Thank you!