

## MUSEUM FACILITY PROJECTS

- Dodgepole Siding Completion Work Continues. Other Projects Planned for Upcoming Season

Throughout the summer of 2007, Assistant Roadmaster Wayne Monger has been spearheading a project to move forward with the completion of Dodgepole Siding. This track currently diverges from the inside leg of the balloon track and parallels the south lead. It is being used for equipment storage.

The ongoing project this summer has resulted in the construction of approximately 150 feet of additional track. Wayne's simple request of "just 4 spikes a day" from all volunteers working around the museum during this season has helped push the project forward while Wayne himself has done much work on it as well. Extension of the track has brought it to its next step toward completion, which will be the

construction and installation of a switch connecting the east end of the track to track 7. Dumping and tamping of ballast is also pending. This completion project has been expanded to include tie replacement and ballasting of track 7. Roadmaster Rod McClure expects work on this project to continue through this winter and next spring.

Wayne wishes to acknowledge Loren Ross, Tim Carter, Nick Tynan, and Don Borden for the example they set in consistently getting out and pounding spikes before moving on to their other project during days they spend working at the Museum this summer. He added that major Maintenance of Way projects planned for the 2008 season include beginning construction of the planned "display track" that will diverge from the south lead near Milward Switch and extend along the base of the hill through the south side of the parking lot as well as rehabilitation of the switch at the east end of track 3.

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Rick Gruninger

Like many of the FRRS' members, Rick Gruninger has had a life-long fascination with trains and railroading. "We would hear the whistle and run down to the tracks," he says, recalling childhood memories.

Rick has found himself in fortunate circumstances, giving him the opportunity to operate a variety of aircraft and sea craft. Although curious as to what the experience of operating railroad equipment would be like, he never had the opportunity to do so. Until the spring of 2006, that is.

At that time, he shared his curiosity with his upstairs neighbor, FRRS member Kevin Caldwell. Kevin told Rick about the WPRM, inviting him to satisfy his curiosity by attending the upcoming crew training weekend and getting involved with the Operating Department. Rick did so, and has been an active member of the WPRM's Operating Department since. His enthusiasm for railroading has frequently been an integral part of our operating weekends and special events during the past two seasons.

Working in Risk Management and insurance sales pays the bills so that Rick can pursue his hobbies, which, aside from volunteering at WPRM, include pursuing a love of music. When not helping out around the museum, Rick plays drums for the Reno-area band, "Bad Neighbors." Rick says the two things he enjoys about being a member and volunteer are learning the art of railroading and enjoying the camaraderie of his fellow members. He compares working with them to being part of a family.

Welcome to the FRRS/WPRM family, Rick! We're glad you're here!

