

THE

# TRAIN SHEET

News from the Feather River Rail Society



Oct - Dec 2008  
Issue 146

**- THE TRAIN SHEET -**

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

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**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 April 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

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Cover Photo - A light dusting of snow falls during the 2008 Santa Train event.  
- Eugene Vicknair photo

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**Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"**



**- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -**

FRRS Official Site	www.WPLives.org
WPRR Historical Society	www.wprrhs.org
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net
California Zephyr	californiazephyr.org
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/TidelIndex.htm
Central Calif Traction	www.trainweb.org/tractionco/

## UNION PACIFIC STEAM VISIT

As we go to press, news has been released that Union Pacific will be operating one of their steam trains through northern Nevada and California in April and May. The train is scheduled to run up the Feather River Canyon on May 2 and arrive in Portola for a visit at our museum. The train will be on display May 3-4 and depart for Winnemucca on May 5.

We invite all FRRS members and their families and friends to join us at the museum for this rare visit. Also, there is a lot of work to be done to get the museum ready for the expected visitors. If you can volunteer time or make a donation to assist in getting the grounds ready, it would be greatly appreciated.

We look forward to welcoming the UP steam crew to the WPRM and to seeing our members join in the event.

## FRRS MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

For the first time in over 5 years, the FRRS will be instituting major changes in our membership dues and structure. This is being done in response to rising costs as well as a desire to streamline and rationalize our membership levels based on input from members. Life levels will revert to single cost, but current Life installment payers will be unaffected.

These changes will become effective on June 1, 2009. All existing Life memberships are grandfathered. Dues increases for non-life members will be instituted with the next renewal after June 1.

New membership level structure and dues:

### **Associate** (entry-level/student membership)

- No vote
- receives The Train Sheet
- does not receive The Headlight
- free train rides
- \$25.00 annually (40.00 foreign)

### **Active**

- Voting rights
- receives The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- 10% discount in the Gift Shop
- free train rides
- \$50.00 annually (65.00 foreign)

### **Institutional**

- open to other 501c(3) organizations or enthusiast clubs only
- No voting rights
- receives 2 copies each of The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- given 20 free train ride coupons annually
- \$60.00 annually (75.00 foreign)

### **Family**

- Voting rights for two adults at the same address (receives 2 membership cards)
- receives 1 copy each of The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- 10% discount in the Gift Shop
- free train rides for immediate family
- \$80.00 annually (95.00 foreign)

### **Sustaining** (premium membership level)

- Voting rights (single vote)
- receives The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- 15% discount in the Gift Shop
- free train rides
- 8 free train ride tickets for non-member friends and family
- special recognition pin
- priority tickets/notice on special museum events
- \$150.00 annually (165.00 foreign)

### **Life**

- Voting rights
- receives The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- 15% discount in the Gift Shop
- free train rides
- special recognition pin and laminated membership card
- priority tickets/notice on special museum events
- \$1800.00 one time (can be paid in installments). \$1000 goes to FRRS Endowment Fund.

### **Family Life**

- Voting rights for two adults at the same address (receives 2 membership cards)
- receives 1 copy each of The Train Sheet and The Headlight
- 15% discount in the Gift Shop
- free train rides for immediate family
- special recognition pin and laminated membership cards for two adults
- priority tickets/notice on special museum events
- \$3000.00 one time (can be paid in installments). \$1500 goes to FRRS Endowment Fund.

A special WP Centennial Level will be announced in the next issue. If you have any questions, please contact membership chair Eugene Vicknair via the museum or by email at [membership@wplives.org](mailto:membership@wplives.org).

## MUSEUM REPORT

- David Epling, Museum Manager

The summer season has concluded, although we extended the caboose trains to the end of September. As I conclude my first season as manager, I am happy with the way the summer went. Overall gift shop revenue was up, Caboose Train ride revenue was up and RALs were up.

We had a core group of volunteers throughout the summer that really pitched in and did what needed to be done. Our RAL Engineers, including Lew Barnard, Greg Elems, David Epling, Norm Holmes, Ken Iverson, Bill Parker, Matt Parker (no Relation), Craig Simmons, and Jack Zygnier, skillfully handled all scheduled RALs and the increase in walk-in RALs. We also had a weekend of RALs covered by Ops Supervisor Loren Ross, who escaped from his work at the Grand Canyon.

We've had an outstanding track crew in the form of Pat Brimmer, Kevin Caldwell, Tim Carter, Greg Elems, Matt Elems, David Epling, Rick Gruninger, Steve Habeck, Bart Hansen, Russ Johnson, Slim Liebey, Rod McClure, Wayne Monger, Bill Parker, Ed Powell, Daniel Simpkins, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, Eugene Vicknair, Spencer

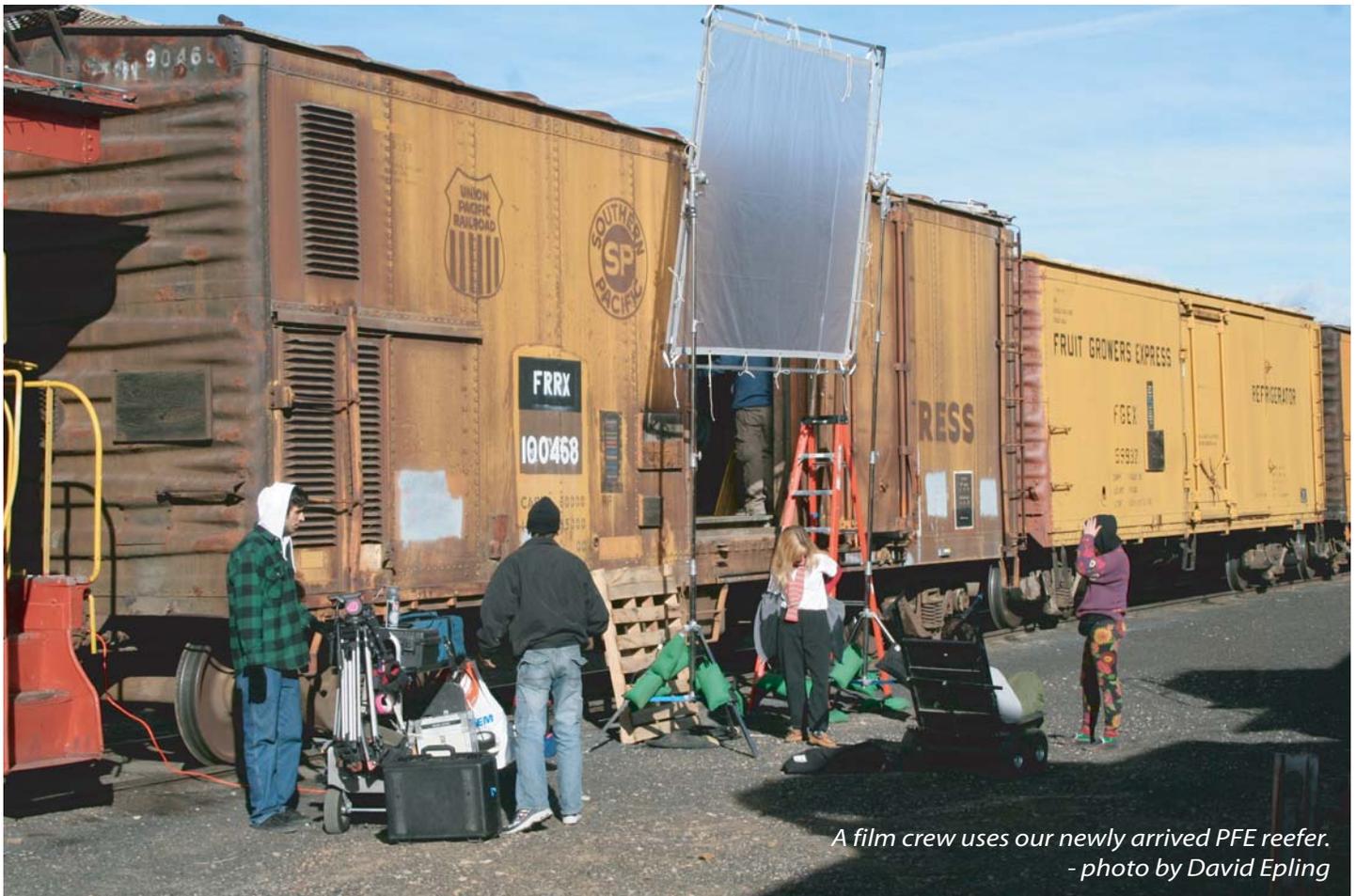
Walker and Cody Wilson. (If I have missed anyone it is not intentional.) Track repairs to the RIP 1 Track are still ongoing and help is still needed. Railroad Days prep and takedown saw most of the names already mentioned, with the addition of Dave Ferreira, Cheri Johnson and Tom Olsen.

The Z scale layout is up and is runnable with a staff member present, usually Bart Hansen or Bob Sims. And speaking of Bob, he came up for several weeks to prep the layout for operation and also traveled to the National Train Show in Anaheim with me to operate it for the public. Also helping at the NTS were Mike Mucklin, Chris Allan, James Mason and Don Delay.

James Mason and Norm Holmes have been prepping U30B 3051 for new paint. Duane Vanderveen finished framing the windows in the WP 614 caboose and also helped on RR days as a car attendant.

Other off campus events have had Museum personnel working events such as the Sparks Farmer's Market (Kevin Caldwell, David Epling, Vicki Epling, Rick Gruninger, Matt Parker, Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, and John Walker.

Hot August Nights was staffed by Tom Carter, Tim



*A film crew uses our newly arrived PFE reefer.  
- photo by David Epling*

Carter, David Epling, Bart Hansen, Norm & Barbara Holmes, Matt Parker, Ed Powell, Craig Simmons, Charlie Spikes, Bruce Veilleux, & John Walker. There was a special appearance by Rod McClure and Reed Jackson of the Union Pacific Railroad's Steam Program with the Union Pacific's Mini-Train.

On December 8, a film crew used our newly arrived PFE reefer as a set for part of an independent film now in production. We're hoping to attract more such work to the museum.

The physical grounds are in good shape, most of my to

do list was completed, what was not completed was the Volunteer Deck between the Edenwold and the Shower Car.

With all that said, We managed to get a lot of work done with minimal staffing. Our train crews have done an outstanding job this year as well, a lot of students and a lot of promotions.

So as we focus on the closing months of the 2008 season, We will slowly begin the winter shutdown process and I am hoping to have a catalog of what is available in the gift shift.

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## OPS DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

We had a lot of promotions recently in the Ops Department. Below is a list of those who have met their qualifications.

Spencer Walker - Conductor  
 Rick Gruninger - Fireman  
 Russ Johnson - Fireman  
 David Epling - Passenger Engineer  
 George Sousa - Brakeman  
 Fred Elenbass - Brakeman  
 Bart Hansen - Fireman  
 Bill Parker - Passenger Engineer  
 Charlie "Golden" Spikes - Passenger Engineer  
 Craig Simmons - Yard Engineer / RAL Instructor  
 David "Dynamite" Epling - RAL Instructor  
 Rick Gruninger - Conductor  
 Kevin "Inferno" Caldwell - Brakeman  
 Tim Carter - Brakeman  
 Ethan "Quickdraw" Doty - Brakeman  
 David "Bart" Hansen - Qualified Brakeman

We also picked up a new Ops Volunteer! Bruce Bowman has started as a Student Brakeman.

Our Ops volunteers have been working their butts off to keep the operating department running smoothly this summer.

Congratulations to all of you. If we have left anyone out, it is not intentional.

Great job, guys!

If you would like to join the Operations Crew, contact Loren Ross or one of our Ops Supervisors and attend the training day on Saturday, April 25, 2009!

## MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

- Tom Carter

In late 2007, I was given a new challenge as a member of the FRRS: Members Appreciation Day 2008. Of course, this immediately led to many questions, not the least of which was: What do I DO? Quickly followed by: What does this entail? What kinds of activities do we plan for? What is our budget? How many people show up for these things?

You guessed it, I had never planned anything more than an adolescent house party prior to my significant other Alicia and I taking on this task. Luckily, we had some great help; otherwise we would have had a couple of kegs of beer and an obnoxious selection of music played above the level of ear pain!

Planning started in November of 2007 with a breakfast meeting between Alicia, Wayne Monger, Matt Parker and myself prior to the Board of Directors meeting that afternoon in Lathrop. At that point, I walked away from the meeting with a better understanding and idea of what was required and expected: An event to make the membership of the Feather River Rail Society feel welcome at their museum and to showcase the hard work of the men and women keeping the Western Pacific alive in Portola

With the assistance of Russ & Cheri Johnson, the Epling and family, Linda Knudson, Eugene Vicknair, Tim and Dustin Carter, Gail McClure, Wayne Monger, and Matt and Stephanie Parker, we set out to balance children's activities & games, activities for the adults, a delicious barbeque dinner and a relaxed atmosphere in conjunction with the annual elections announcement and membership meeting. Alicia and I were pleasantly surprised with the turnout, as it was our goal to meet as many new faces in the membership as possible and to show them that their decision to join the Feather

River Rail Society was a smart choice. Members came from all over the country with one couple coming all the way from British Columbia Canada. The Operating Department graciously surrendered time with their families to run caboose trains all weekend to the delight of the children, and thanks to Gail, we not only had numerous games and activities for the children, each of them walked away with a prize and had a great time. The highlight was to be a "Rubber Chicken Launcher" made from two old high stand switch stands and surgical tubing. Though the launcher presented many logistical problems, folks had a lot of laughs trying their luck as we got it dialed in and working great on Sunday. A good time was had by all attempting to launch "fake fowl" all over the picnic area. Wayne put on a great spread in the diesel shop and after a day of coordinating fun and games, it was actually relaxing to spend the evening on the barbeque grill with Wayne cooking delicious tri-tip, chicken and hotdogs. Thanks again go to Gail for prepping the delicious food; I don't know what we would have done without her help and patience during numerous frantic phone calls to the McClure household leading up to the event.

To see the membership filling one end of the Diesel Shop and the Board of Directors standing before them was pretty rewarding, but the real treat was listening to these folks talk about the history of the museum, the connection with the Western Pacific and their plans for the future of our museum. I came away from the 2008 Members Appreciation Day with a renewed spirit of the future of the Feather River Rail Society and I sincerely hope the rest of the membership did as well.

The 2009 Members Appreciation Day is already in the planning stages and is going to be a two part event this year. The festivities kick off with a Barbecue and Membership Meeting on June 6th at 5:30pm, where the 2009 Board of Directors election results will be announced. September 26th will mark the return of "Railfan Photographer Day" in conjunction with Members Appreciation Day. This year, Railfan Photo Day will be open to members only. What that means to our non-member fans is that they are still welcome to attend and partake in the activities, however, they will need to purchase a membership to the FRRS. Activities and details will be announced in the near future on our website at: [www.wplives.org](http://www.wplives.org).

I encourage every member of the Feather River Rail Society to come on out for both membership events in 2009, Western Pacific Railroad's Centennial year, to enjoy YOUR museum. It promises to be a lot of fun and we look forward to meeting you.

## DEPARTURES

*Sadly, the last half of 2008 has proven to be a difficult one for many long-time members. After announcing the passing of two volunteers in the last issue, we now have the loss of two more, as well as the news, to be covered more in the next issue, of the passing of prominent Western Pacific historian and Society friend Virgil Staff.*

*To the family and friends of our departed members and volunteers, the FRRS family extends its deepest condolences.*

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Director **Merrill Thurman** of Fulton, Missouri passed away at the age of 53 at the St. Mary's Hospital on Friday, November 14, 2008. He was born August 19, 1955, in Modesto, California, son of the late Gordon and Joyce (Hartliep) Thurman. On December 27, 1975, he was united in marriage to Rita (Hall) Thurman who survives at their home.

Merrill was a self-employed Computer Interface Analyst. He worked for the Community Health Systems of Nashville, Tennessee for many years. His passions were his grandchildren, umpiring fast pitch softball and modeling railroads. His home-grown HO pike was the "Missouri Western Pacific", a fictional midwestern division of his beloved WP. He enjoyed duck hunting, fly-fishing, goose hunting, working on his 18-wheeler, traveling, camping and was a Ham Radio Operator.

He was a Life member of the Feather River Rail Society and was appointed to the Board of Directors early in 2008. Despite living in Missouri, Merrill was a strong supporter and advocate of the Society, regularly attending the WPRRHS Conventions and coming to Portola to volunteer when work and family permitted. Merrill's father, Gordon Thurman, who passed away in May of this year, was a former Western Pacific engineer and inspired Merrill's love of the WP. The Z-Scale Western Pacific layout was saved and brought to the museum largely through his generosity. He was also an advocate for WP SW1 501, the railroad's first diesel, and set-up a fundraising effort on its behalf.

In addition to his wife of thirty-two years, he will be sadly missed and lovingly remembered by son Merrill Lee Thurman and his wife, Melissa, of Hillsboro, Missouri; daughter Victoria Christine Thurman of Fulton, Missouri; two grandchildren, Hayden Thurman and Baylee Hash; several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and numerous friends. His parents and a twin brother, Edgar Lee Thurman, preceded him in death.

Memorial services were held on Saturday, November 22, 2008, at the Southside Baptist Church in Fulton, Missouri, with Reverend Ron Baker officiating. Memorial contributions may be made to the Central Missouri Food Bank or to a College Trust Fund set up for his grandchildren, Hayden and Baylee. The FRRS is also accepting donations in Merrill's name for the restoration of Western Pacific SW1 501.

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**Clyde Roger Lippincott** passed away on Friday, November 28, 2008, in Newport, Washington. He was born in Oakland, California, on February 13, 1944, to Vance and Agnes Lippincott. He moved with his family to Carson City, Nevada, and lived there until 2007. He was, along with his family, the owner of Frontier Enterprises of Carson City.

Over his life, he was active in various Masonic Bodies, being Past Master of Carson Lodge #1, Carson City, NV; Past Master of Douglas Lodge #12, Genoa, NV; Eminent Commander, E.C. Peterson Commander #8, Carson City, NV. He was also a member Lewis Chapter #1 Royal Arch Masons of Carson City and a past member of Esther Chapter #3, Order of the Eastern Star in Carson City. He was currently attending Newport Lodge #144 and Zillah Chapter #111, Order of the Eastern Star in Newport, WA. He was also a member of the Family Motor Coach Association; National Model Railroad Association; National Rifle Association; Northern Nevada Railway Foundation; Carson City Rifle and Pistol Club, and a long-time member of the Feather River Rail Society.

Clyde is survived by his wife of 32 years, Linda, daughter Lisa Hunter (Will) and 4 grandsons, son Roger Lippincott (Michelle) of NV, Uncle Forest Thayer of CA, and a large extended family.

A memorial service were held on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at the Colbert Presbyterian Church, 1211 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert, WA. In lieu of flowers you may make contributions to The New Hope Resource Center, 1211 E. Colbert Rd., Colbert, WA 99005 or the Northern Nevada Railway Foundation, P.O. Box 339, Carson City, NV 89702-0339.

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## REMEMBERING...

Some of you may have never met Frank Beavers or Clyde Lippincott. But, if you've ever been up to the museum, you probably benefited from some of their handiwork. These two were active in the FRRS for many years and had a big impact on several members.

Frank had a brief career with the WP, living in an outfit car in the middle of the Nevada desert before going on to work in the Logging industry near Lake Almanor. Some would describe Frank as a fussy "old coot" with strong opinions and "a bone to pick" with just about everybody. But around his friends, Frank always had a smile on his face and a good word of encouragement. Frank worked hard around the museum helping to prepare for special events and woodworking in the carpentry shop. He was a model railroader and historian. And wherever Frank traveled, be it at a model railroad show, another railroad museum or just around his home in Westwood, he was always talking up the museum. Frank would distribute flyers and was a great ambassador for the museum. He embraced the WPRRHS and volunteered many hours sorting and arranging items in the Archives. Frank was also the chairman of our very successful WPRRHS convention in Reno and made provisions to have his private collection donated to the WPRRHS upon his death.

Clyde was a huge, giant of a man with a booming voice and ideas and opinions that were just as big as he was. But while some sat back and complained about him and his opinions, Clyde himself was busy working around the museum - putting his back and his money where his mouth was. Clyde and his wife Linda worked hard on many projects around the museum, including the shower car, repairs to the SN1632, moving the Ingersoll Rand locomotive to Portola, as well as numerous building and grounds projects. And when the museum did not have, or could not afford, the correct tools and equipment to do the job right, Clyde and Linda would show up in their RV with a huge trailer full of tools! When weeds and brush began to reclaim our property, he would spend several days on his tractor making the museum look better and eliminating dangerous fire conditions. At the end of the day, tired and sore, he always had a smile on his face and a friendly pat on the back for his coworkers. More recently, Clyde and Linda were always present for the annual Railroad Days celebration with the Gandy Dancer Model Railroad Club.

*They drew a circle, and shut them out.  
Heretics! Rebels! - A thing to flout!  
But Love and I, had the wit to win.  
We drew a circle - And took them in.*

- Edwin Markham

Thank you guys. We will always remember your valuable contributions to our success. But most of all, we will simply miss having you around.

- John Walker

## TIDEWATER SOUTHERN'S FIRST DIESEL

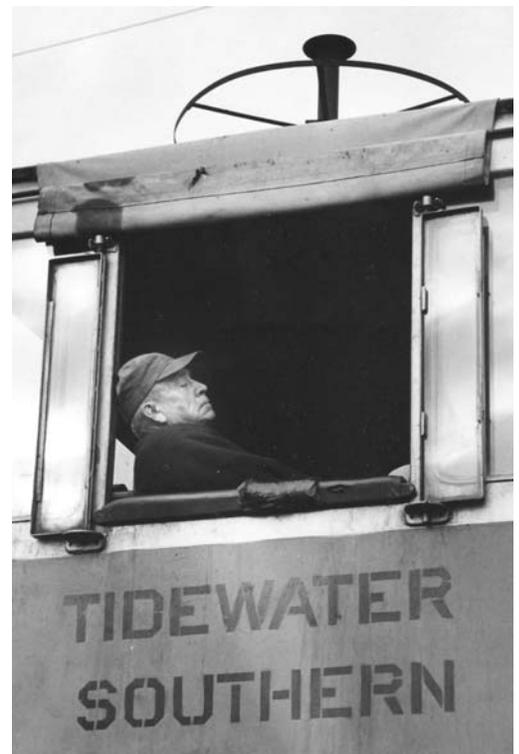
Tidewater Southern diesel 735, a 44 ton model built by General Electric in 1946, has been donated to the Feather River Rail Society. This historic locomotive was the first diesel on the TS and served the railroad longer than any other diesel locomotive. It worked alongside the Tidewater's electric power in Modesto and with the last of the road's steam engines. In 1967, it went to work for Pickering Lumber in Standard, California, still wearing TS orange and silver. Today, the engine is out of service in Kansas City, Kansas, still wearing very faded Zephyr colors. Thanks to A&K Railroad Materials, the FRRS now owns this unique engine, our first piece of TS motive power.

Estimates to move the engine are running about \$12,000. We have raised \$5,500 through donations to save the 735, and are working on a deal to get a much cheaper rate, but we still need more funds to move and stabilize this engine. Please donate to the TS 735 Fund to help bring this engine back to California: **FRRS - TS 735 Fund** .. P O Box 608 .. Portola, CA 96122.



*TS 135 is less than 2 years old in the rainy view above from Pittsburg, CA. The Sacramento Northern has borrowed the Tidewater's first diesel to help with trains to the booming steel mill east of town.*  
- Carl Allen Walker collection

*Late in her career, 44 tonner 735 provides a cozy spot for TS engineer Sy Black to catch a few winks (right). Now sporting silver and orange paint (the first switcher to be repainted in these colors), the 735 has only a few years left before heading to the high Sierras.*  
- photo by Ted Benson



## CORRECTIONS

A few errors crept into the Portola RR Days 2008 article in Issue 145:

Mr. Gary Van Treese, who has been displaying his live steam "G" scale locomotives at Railroad Days for 14 years, was accidentally identified as "Lee Van Treest". Also, his layout was display on the old loading dock this year, but has been in other locations. My apologies for the error.

Gary's display is unique in that the locomotives run on a propane / butane mix used for camping stoves. This is burned to heat the water for making the steam which is used to propel the locomotives, just like the real thing. The steam pressure is kept to a low 40 PSI so the models are not dangerous in case of boiler failure. They can cause burns, however, so caution is expressed to the spectators to not touch the engines when in steam. Gary reports that he has enjoyed displaying his models at the museum, and plans to again attend this year's 2009 Railroad Days.

We look forward to seeing you and your layout again this year, Gary! Portola RR Days is August 22-23, 2009.

# TRACKWORK CONTINUES

- Wayne Monger, Assistant Roadmaster

Thanks again to Bill Parker, Charlie Spikes, Loren Ross, Tim Carter, Nick (sorry, no last name), Craig Walker, David Epling and everyone else that helped finishing up the track rebuilding project of Rip Track #1 in the biting cold on Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec. 14.

Tim, Nick and myself finished up setting around 80-90 spikes in the new Rip Track #2 switch on Sunday morning so that the track is ready for the air hammer to drive all of these spikes home. Since Tim and I left at

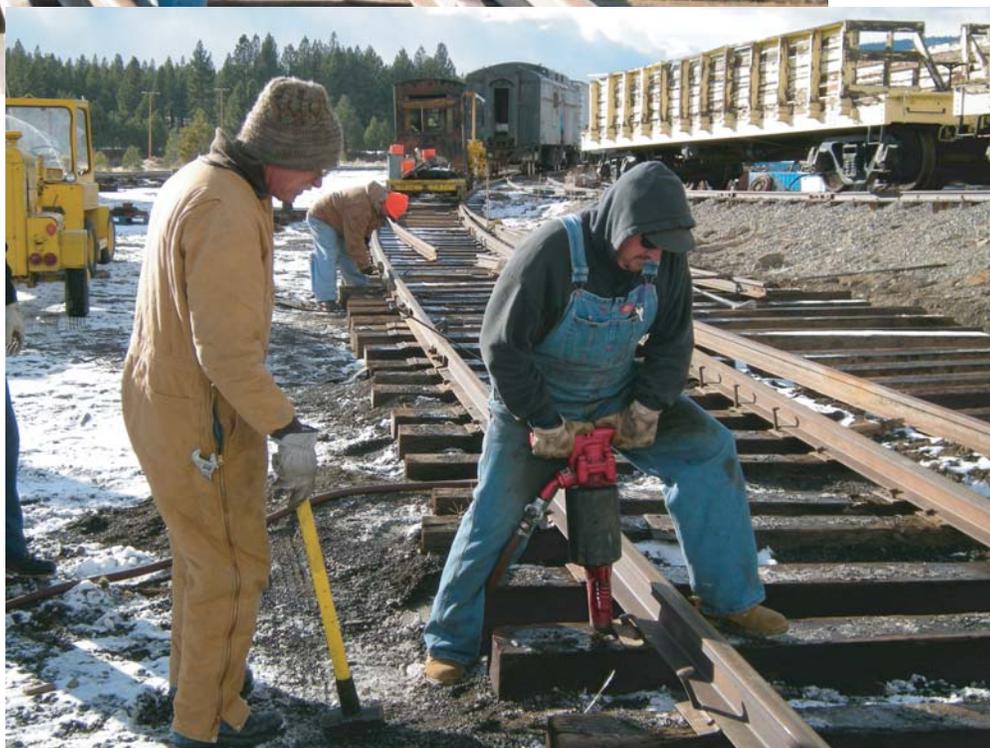
2:00 PM on Sunday to try and get out of the Feather River Canyon before the big snowstorm arrived (we just barely made it out over Jarbo Gap!), there was just one task left to go.

Bill, David and Kevin Caldwell got out there on Saturday, December 20 with the compressor and air hammer to finish off the job. Once the track is inspected and accepted, Rip #1 is back in service!!

Check out the photos below of our intrepid track crews getting some serious iron work done. Everyone did a fantastic job!



*Our volunteers put in hours no matter the weather. A mild November day (above) finds work progressing on the switch for RIP track 1. One month later (right), snow is on the ground and the attire is noticeably bulkier as spikes are driving on the rebuilt trackage. Our 37 acre facility is surprisingly packed with track and the care and repair of the old infrastructure is an on-going process. Without good people on the ground, doing the dirty work, we would not get very far at all. Visible in these photos are Duane Vanderveen, Craig Simmons, Rod McClure, Matt Parker, Charlie Spikes, Spencer Walker and Kevin Caldwell. Thanks, everyone!*



*photos by Wayne Monger*

## HISTORIC BOXCAR TO WPRM

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

A wood boxcar from WP "parent" and long-time ally Denver and Rio Grande Western will soon be coming to the museum and joining our steam era collection. D&RGW 62962 has been given to the FRRS by the Bay Area Electric Railway Association as part of a deaccession program. It is currently stored at Rio Vista Junction.

Car 62962 was built in October 1909 (one month before the WP line was completed) as part of a 1500-car series: D&RG 62000 to 63499. The car cost \$741.00 new and was built by American Car and Foundry of St. Charles, Missouri. Rebuilt in 1925, the 62962 received many improvements including Murphy steel ends, center sill cover plates and friction draft gear. Cars of this class were documented several times on the WP and its subsidiaries.

On June 30, 1942, the 62962 was retired. The U. S. Navy acquired the car and some sisters, likely to replace equipment destroyed in the famous Concord Naval Weapons Station explosion that occurred at Port Chicago, California on July 17, 1944. The Navy car number was USN 61-00200 when the car was acquired by the BAERA.

The 62962 is complete and in fair condition. It needs to be painted as the Navy paint has peeled off and the body is now bare. The FRRS Acquisition / Deacquisition Committee and the WPRM Board of Directors have approved the 62962's inclusion into the permanent collection, based on key determinations:

- The 62962 is complete and intact, and representative of "steam era" railcars of the mid 1920's up to post World War II, of which there is a noticeable gap in the WPRM collection.
- This boxcar was built by AC&F in 1909, the same year that the Western Pacific was completed, another period with collection gaps.
- The Denver and Rio Grande was the driving force and financier in the construction of the WP, and an excellent representative of a steam era car type from this important WP connection.

It is estimated that about \$5000.00-\$6000.00 will be needed to cover movement by truck to Portola. To date, several members of the WPRM

Steam Department have donated about \$2500.00. This car is to be utilized by the Steam Department to house a modest machine shop and office. Members of the Steam Department will perform initial conservatory measures to arrest any decay at the outset, but any major work such as roof or siding replacement will be delayed until the 165 steam locomotive restoration is substantially complete.

We need your help to preserve this piece of history by donating toward the move and restoration. Any amount will aid us in restoring this significant artifact of western railroading as a tribute to American craftsmanship and a reminder of what once moved our great Country. Drawings from the collection of the Denver Public Library have already been acquired which will help us to accurately restore this car to its post 1925 livery.

Please send your donation to:  
Western Pacific Railroad Museum- DRGW 62962  
Boxcar Fund, P O Box 608, Portola, CA 96122-0608. Make sure to note "DRGW 62962 Boxcar Fund" on the memo line of your check!

### TECHNICAL DATA

**Type..** Boxcar - wooden, double sheathed  
**Builder..** American Car and Foundry  
**Build Date..** October 1909  
**Underframe..** steel  
**Body Ends..** Murphy two-piece steel  
**Roof Construction..** wood  
**Light Weight..** 36,000 pounds  
**Capacity..** 80,000 pounds, 2480 cubic feet  
**Inside Length..** 36' 5 7/8"  
**Inside Width..** 8' 6"  
**Inside Height..** 8' 0"  
**Exterior Length..** 36' 11 1/2" over end sill  
 40' 0" over pulling faces.  
**Extreme Width..** 9' 6" at a height of 12' 2 1/4"  
**Height over Running Boards..** 13'-1"  
**Height over Brake Wheel..** 15' 4 3/8"  
**Side Door Opening..** 6' 0" wide X 7' 2 7/8" high  
**Truck centers..** 26' 11 1/2"  
**Trucks..** Bettendorf cast steel with spring plank  
 changed from Diamond Archbar  
**Wheels..** 33-inch diameter  
**Truck Wheelbase..** 66"  
**Journals..** 5" X 9" plain bearing  
**Air brake System..** KC 1012, type K-2 triple  
**Brake Cylinder..** 10 X 12  
**Couplers..** Sharon TS 12 1/2  
**Draft Gear..** Miner tandem

## October 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motion - approved motion 08-10-02.

- . Minutes - from the Sept 2008 BOD Meeting.
- . Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end of September 2008.

2. Business Motions

#### Motion 08-10-01

##### 2009 Event Calendar

Tabled to the November 2008 Meeting.  
Thurman / G. McClure. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-03

##### Donation of Flatcar KRL 600430

Accept donation from Kasgro of car KRL 600430 under terms and conditions outlined in letter from company.  
Vicknair / G. McClure. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-04

##### Purchase Offer for DODX Flatcar

Sell DODX 38646 for \$6250 plus \$250 switching charges. Contract to be drafted by President McClure FOB Portola, no warranties, as is, where is. Contract to be presented to Board for review following sale.  
G. McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-05

##### Switching and Loading Charges

Refer issue and recommendation flat rate structure to Moving and Storage Committee.  
G. McClure / Holmes. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 1.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-06

##### Property Fencing

Table issue until March 2009. Director Vicknair to continue negotiation with Calif. Conservation Corp for next Spring.  
G. McClure / Thurman. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-07

##### 2009 Commemorative Models

Table to the November 2008 Meeting.  
G. McClure / Thurman. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 08-10-08

##### Advertising Opportunities

Approve expenditure for two advertising opportunities: KOLO TV Staycations and Tri-City Publications tourism guide. \$500 total expenditure from line item 67010 - Advertising.  
Vicknair / G. McClure. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### President's Report

- . SP 4404 - UP is now requiring locomotives hauled in service to have alignment control couplers. To convert an engine would cost about \$10,000 per coupler. Sales talk ongoing.
- . Silver Plate is here. Made it with no damage or delay.
- . Trackwork continues on RIP tracks and other areas.
- . Oil separator chemicals have arrived.
- . Frank Beaver's collection moved from Westwood.
- . Sheet metal has been purchased to cover broken windows on north side of diesel shop.
- . Spoke with Mike Coen about investments. Dan Brady has moved our stocks to low risk from medium risk. We have taken a loss, but it is not severe.

#### Museum Manager's Report

- . Presented September sales numbers. RAL, train rides and donations were up vs. 2007. Gift Shop was down from 2007, but overall sales was up over Sept. 2007.
- . Lots of people from KOLO Staycations.
- . Greg Vanderbeek came and worked on SN 1642 caboose. Need a plan to finish work.
- . Ed Powell is working to complete electrical and HVAC work on Silver Debris.
- . Charlie Spikes put in new security lights with constant-on detectors. Ed Powell also worked on this. Going on outside of Diesel Shop and Silver Debris.
- . Looking into doing weed abatement. Local fire crew offered to do it after first major rainstorm.
- . Craig Simmons gave information on local cooperation group.
- . Showed model of UP Western Pacific Heritage SD70 in G scale.
- . Tour group of 40 people coming in on Tuesday.

#### Director's Reports

*Holmes* - Bob Larson donated a photo enlarger.

#### Department Reports

*Zephyr Project* - Lettering made for 805 and Silver Plate. Work will occur next weekend, weather permitting.  
*Advertising / PR* - Ad submitted to Hot August Nights bi-monthly newsletter, circulation 12,000. As sponsor, we get full color, full page ad in next 6 issues. Still getting response on HAN show. Wants to make commitment to HAN for 2009. Discuss commitment at

November Meeting.

### Committee Reports

*Model Railroad* - 2011 National Train Show will be in Sacramento. Would like presence at show and asks that we start planning for it. Asked that we start working on HO layout for 2011 show.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 7:47 PM and reconvened to open session at 10:50 PM. Director Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten/ITAC. No action taken.

The Board considered a business issue concerning the position of Museum Manager. A report was presented by employment committee regarding the position of Museum Manager. Motion to accept contract, job description, position duties, as reported, was made by Director Thurman, seconded by Director Vicknair and accepted by unanimous vote of the Board.

### Motion 08-10-09

#### Museum Manager Contract

Accept contract, job description, position duties for Museum Manager.

Thurman / Vicknair. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carries.

Motion was made to extend position as described and accepted by Board to current Manager, David Epling, to run through February 14, 2009 with option to extend beyond that time. Motion made by Director G. McClure, seconded Director Vicknair. Was accepted by unanimous vote of the Board.

### Motion 08-10-10

#### Current Museum Manager

Extend position as described and accepted by Board to current Manager, David Epling, to run through Feb. 14, 2009 with option to extend beyond that time.

G. McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carries.

President provided Board with documents concerning a liability issue. A motion was forwarded regarding Board's decision to follow legal counsel advice as provided. Motion failed and was referred by consensus direction back to legal counsel for further advice."

Director Parker made the following statement for the record: "He is very troubled by the action of this Board that resulted in not following legal counsel's advice with regard to the personnel issue."

## November 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Director Resignation

John Walker has resigned as a director due to other time commitments.

Next highest vote getter in 2008 election, Frank Brehm, declined due to personal commitments.

Next highest vote getter is Charlie Spikes. He accepts position and Board gave consensus approval.

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - approved motion 08-11-02.

. Minutes - from the October 2008 BOD Meeting.  
. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end of October 2008.

2. Business Motions

### Motion 08-11-01

#### 2009 Event Calendar

Approve the amended version of the calendar.

Vicknair / G. McClure. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

### Motion 08-11-03

#### 2009 Commemorative Models

Accept report as submitted for ordering 250 each of custom cars in HO and N scale with concept 1 graphics.

G. McClure / Habeck. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

### Motion 08-11-04

#### Headlight Editor

Accept the proposal by Mike Mucklin to become Headlight production manager and include the higher cost into 2009 budget.

Vicknair / G. McClure. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 1.

Motion carried.

### Motion 08-11-05

#### Gift Shop Improvements

Accept Gift Shop Improvement report with work to be done in following priority: 1 - POS / On-Line, 2 - Insulate gift shop ceiling, 3 - Low cost reorganization, 4 - New Window into Diesel Shop, 5 - Soda Fountain and related, 6- Gift Cards. To be done on a funds available basis from line items as outlined in report.

Vicknair / Monger. Aye - 6, Nay - 0, Abstain - 1.

Motion carried.

### Motion 08-11-06

Join Society for Industrial Archaeology

Accept the proposal and join the Society for Industrial Archaeology, \$50 annual dues to come from line item 67090 - Dues and Subscriptions.

G. McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

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

#### Train Sheet Costs

Accept report and proceed with recommendation to make AgPress printer and mailer for The Train Sheet.

G. McClure / Habeck. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

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

#### Approval of 2009 Budget

Table until December 2008 Meeting.

Vicknair / G. McClure. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

### **President Report**

- Silver Plate - Ownership documents have arrived from CSRM. Steve Habeck has been getting the lights working in the Plate. Bruce Veilleux, Cody Wilson, Rod McClure and Steve Habeck placed chairs and did general reorganization. Blowers in kitchen work. Tom Carter has new lettering made to specs from Eugene Vicknair. Silver Plate will be used for Santa Train.
- Santa Train - David Epling and Matt Parker will be canvassing for donations from local businesses. Steve Habeck is working on set-up and decoration. We will need a crew to help. We will have a light plant again. Locals are working on cookies.

### **Museum Manager Report**

- Visitor logs show major draw is California. We did see an increase from Northern Nevada and of the 120 October entries, 98 of them are first time visitors citing Family, friends, Internet and publications as the way they heard about us. We did 22 RALs, 4 being walk-ins.
- Many volunteers stepped up in the month of October: Thanks to Stephanie Parker, Craig Simmons, Bart Hansen, Charlie Spikes, Bill Parker, Bob Sims, Duane Vanderveen, Dave Ferreira, Bruce Veilleux, Slim Lieby, Rick Gruninger, Wayne Monger & Ed Powell.
- Ed Powell completed installation of the heating unit in the Silver Debris.
- Bill Parker, Bruce Veilleux, Wayne Monger, Slim Lieby, Dave Ferreira, Rick Gruninger completed the Ramp Switch construction/repair and have laid most of the rail and ties to complete the RIP Track repair and installation of the new West Rip 2 Switch.
- Duane Vanderveen completed side windows on WP 614 Caboose and spent 3 days installing new security lights at the SW and SE corners of the Diesel Shop.
- Charlie Spikes has been around the facility with

numerous projects best termed as "Honey-do's".

- Bob Sims came up and spent a week. Among his projects were completion of various items in the Silver Debris, completing the safety railing on the west end of the volunteer deck and repairing the open window on the CCT 24 Caboose.
- Bart Hansen and Craig Simmons have stepped up as our utility infielders, both have answered last minute calls for help. In Craig's case, he has been there for the walk-in RALs. In Bart's case, he's been an extra pair of hands for just about any project at the museum. Most notably he was instrumental in inventorying the Beavers Estate Model collection.
- Stephanie Parker and Bruce Veilleux have covered the gift shop to allow Manager to have days off.
- We will be doing the Great Train Expo show in Sacramento CA Jan 11-12, 2009 at Cal Expo.

### **Director's Reports**

*Monger* - Thanks to David Epling for help with feeding track crew last weekend. Talking to Epling about catalog Epling is doing on Frank Beaver's collection.

### **Department Reports**

*Operations* - All locos except 1100 (with anti-freeze) are drained. All passenger cars are back inside gate and off West Pass. Work has started for Santa Train.

*Train Sheet* - Report on status of next 3 issues and review of issues with printer and mailing house.

*MOW* - Last weekend, track crew working on RIP 1. Ramp track switch is back together. Rail laid to new RIP 2 switch, laid out ties for track extension. Nov. 15-16 more track work. Goal to complete project by Spring. Gail McClure gave special thanks to Wayne Monger for organizing and running track crews, particularly on the RIP 1-2 project.

### **Committee Reports**

*Website* - Web site being redesigned for Jan. 1 roll-out.

### **Closed Session**

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:23 PM and reconvened to open session at 4:32 PM. Director Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten/ITAC. No action taken."

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## **December 2008 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary**

### **Special Notices**

Director Merrill Thurman passed away unexpectedly. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

To fill Director Thurman's seat, Frank Brehm, as high vote getter in last election, was offered the seat and has accepted in accordance with by-laws.

Life Member and former Director Clyde Lippencott also passed away. The Board held a moment of silence for Mr. Lippencott.

The Board formally acknowledges the service both of these members gave to the FRRS.

### **Motions Passed**

1. Consent Motions - approved motion 08-12-02.
- . Financial Reports - reports to end of November 2008.
2. Business Motions

#### **Motion 08-12-01**

##### 2009 Budget

Table to January 2009 Meeting.

R. McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 08-12-03**

##### Truck Donation

Accept donation of a 1975 Chevrolet 1 ton truck with 10' bed and lift gate from the son of Director Norman Holmes.

G. McClure / Vicknair. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 08-12-04**

##### Restricted Fund for DRGW Boxcar

Approve creation of restricted fund for DRGW 62962 boxcar.

Holmes / G. McClure. Aye - 6, Nay - 1, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 08-12-05**

##### Sale of Sugar Beet Gondola

Authorize President McClure to open negotiation with San Luis Obispo RR Museum to sell SP 358246 for \$5000, FOB Portola with contract to be returned to the Board for approval.

G. McClure / Spikes. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 08-12-06**

##### Model Railroad Show

Accept report by Museum Manager and approve Plan A for FRRS attendance of the Great Train Expo, with a maximum expenditure of \$500.00 from Line Item - 53035 Gift Shop Shows.

G. McClure / Habeck. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### **Motion 08-12-07**

##### Tidewater Southern 44 tonner 735

Accept donation of TS 44 tonner 735 from A&K Railroad Materials of Kansas City, with an acquisition budget not to exceed \$15,000 from line item 52010 o

Transportation on a funds available basis, with a memorandum of agreement between FRRS and A&K to be approved by the Board when drafted, as well as authorization for President McClure to negotiate time extension or time deadline to move with A&K.

Holmes / Vicknair. Aye - 6, Nay - 1, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

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

- New quote on 917 oil cooler. Board consensus is to purchase new oil cooler.

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

- \$500-600 in Frank Beavers model sales so far. Look to have another \$200 in sales today.
- Commemorative boxcars are selling.
- Duane Vanderveen has been working around the property. Has put up security lights and worked on building windows.
- Jeff Saunders came from SoCal to patch hole on scrap gon to get car off property. Rebuilt drain near "Edenwold". Worked on Frank Beavers' speeder flat.
- Santa Train - Habeck family decorated baggage car and "Silver Plate". Gift shop will be set up in SN 1642 caboose. We got \$50 from K&S Market. Blanche Farnham came through with cookies and refreshments.
- Director Monger thanked Epling for getting end of year fundraising letter printed and mailed out.

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

*Monger* - Brad Lohse, RR show producer, is sending a letter to his customers telling them about our WPRRHS Convention and Membership / Rail Photo Day in 2009.

#### **Department Reports**

*Facilities* - Charlie Spikes & Duane Vanderveen finished window project. Came in \$1300 under budget. Duane also built extension to protect big air compressor.

*Fundraising* - Year-end fundraising letter is out. 250 copies of Life Membership special fundraiser for equipment painting has gone out.

*MOW* - Had a crew working on RIP 1, made more progress. Will be working again tomorrow.

*Yardmaster* - Steve Habeck made sure all locomotives are drained and winterized except SP / Quincy 1100 with anti-freeze and SP 2873 used for Santa Trains.

*IT* - Gave report on status of on-line store and Point of

## - 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

### **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.

Sale system. Gail McClure thanked Bruce for taking this on and donating so much time and money. The Board formally recognizes Bruce's contribution bringing a new revenue stream to the museum.

*Zephyr Project* - Thank you to Mary Ann Vicknair and Dustin Carter for work cleaning the interior of the Silver Plate, Steve Habeck for his work on the wiring, and Tom and Tim Carter and Alicia LaBreque worked on relettering the Silver Plate and cleaning the exterior.  
*Train Sheet* - Issue 144 at printer, Issues 145, 146 in layout. Still needing articles and photos to 145-146.

### **Committee Reports**

*Election* - Seat held by Charlie Spikes and seat to be held by Frank Brehm will have to stand for election in this cycle. Regular seats for election are seats held by

Gail McClure, Steve Habeck and Eugene Vicknair

### **Closed Session**

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 3:22 PM and reconvened to open session at 3:45 PM. Director Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS vs. Kasten. No action taken. The Board heard a report about a proprietary equipment issue. Consensus direction was given, no 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.*

## The Train Sheet

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

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*Santa Trains had a very good turnout this year. Due to rising costs, this was the first year the museum actually charged a gate fee to attend, but attendance was good and most folks expressed approval at helping the Society. The line to enter the baggage car is lively and many visitors spent time exploring the CZ diner "Silver Plate", coupled behind the baggage car.*

*-photo by Eugene Vicknair*