

**Feather River Rail Society  
Annual Membership Meeting  
June 5, 2004  
7:30 p.m.  
Diesel Shop, Portola Railroad Museum  
Portola, California**

President Rod McClure called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. The following directors were present:

Frank Brehm McClure	Kerry Cochran	Steve Habeck	Gail
Wayne Monger	Hank Stiles	Eugene Vicknair	

Directors Andy Anderson and Norm Holmes were unable to attend.

Visitors present:

Thom Anderson	Lew Barnard	Rick Edwards	Carol Epling
David Epling	Victoria Epling	James Eroh	Mark Granados
Ron Huey	Russell Johnson	Jon Kinser	Brittany Knudson
Jay Knudson	Linda Knudson	Ed Powell	Jay Sarno
Matthew Shuman	Cheri Stedje	Ed Wagner	

President Rod McClure called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. With the assistance of Victoria Epling, all visitors introduced themselves. He thanked everyone for attending and said it was good to see new faces as well as "the regulars". He also thanked Directors Gail McClure and Frank Brehm for the BBQ tri-tip and roasted turkey dinner with all the trimmings they prepared for the members.

He proceeded to inform the membership of the following accomplishments in the last year:

Rio Vista Trade – FRRS every excited about the pending equipment trade through which we will add to our collection the WP 917D, SN 712, UP 5732 (caboose) and WP 483 (Caboose). He also advised the membership of the positive response we have received from all over the country for what has been touted as one of the largest Museum trades in recent history.

WP 165 – This past year saw the addition of the first WP steam locomotive to the collection and is one of only five remaining.

WP 705 – This GP7 was purchased by a group of members and donated to the organization. This will represent the fourth WP GP7 on the property of only six remaining.

SP 1215 – This locomotive was de-assessed from our collection and is now under the ownership of the California Trolley & Rail Corporation. She should be returning to her home territory by this time next year.

Santa Maria Valley Railroad – One surplus SP beet gondola car has been traded to this organization to obtain an early SN wooden boxcar and the movement of this equipment should be completed this year.

Quincy 4 – After four years of planning and hard work, the Quincy 4 is in Portola. This Alco S-1 was originally numbered WP 504 and was the first Alco S-1 purchased by the WP.

WP 805A – Lives and breathes again for the first time since 1997. Special thanks go to Dave McLain and crew for their hard work and creative problem solving.

Webmaster – After several years as our Webmaster, Sam Herschbein has given up the reins to pursue personal projects. David “Dynamite” Epling has been appointed in his stead.

Walkways – Hard not to notice the beautiful new walkways and start of the caboose loading gallery on the property. Start of a project to allow easier and ADA compliant access to many areas on the property. Special thanks to Ed Wagner for his generous contribution to this project in memory of his brother Joe. Special thanks and acknowledgement to Director Eugene Vicknair for his creative genius and as the driving force behind this project as well as the volunteer lounge remodel.

Magnolia Tower – Should be in Portola in the next couple of months as disassembly is complete and loading is eminent. The group involved with the restoration of a nearly identical tower in Santa Clara may be able assist with installation of a system that would allow simulated operation of the relays in the building’s machinery as well as light a CTC Board.

Tanks – One of the two tanks from the parking lot has been found a new home by the Government. We continue to work on placement of the second one.

WP Portola Hospital – A structural engineering report is in the works and fundraising to restore the building to adaptive reuse will begin once the report is in hand.

“Road Trips” – Select representatives of our collection went on the road twice last year and performed very well. We received many positive comments from the public as well as from the Union Pacific Railroad regarding our professional operation on their trackage.

Museum Manager – John Walker has been contracted for another year as our on-site manager. He has made great strides toward clean up of the property, organization of the shop and increasing profitability in the gift shop.

## **Open Forum**

Museum Manager, John Walker, reported that his job turned out to be more work than he originally thought it would entail, however, he was pleased by the great volunteers he has had the opportunity to work with. He stands by his assessment that the Museum is a diamond in the rough and if the members rally around it, we have a huge potential for more improvements and great things for our future. This is particularly important in light

of the fact that the Society and Museum we built by rails and railfans. We have accomplished something people said couldn't be done.

Director Steve Habeck noted that one of the biggest benefits John brings to the organization is his coordinated effort to "spread the word" about the Museum and the direction we are headed. There has been a big difference at the Museum physically and a noted difference in how the Society is perceived due in part to John's presence at the facility as well as outside venues.

Director Hank Stiles pointed to the need for volunteers to help in all areas of the facility. All of the work done on our locomotives have been done by dedicated volunteers, some experienced in the workings of diesel equipment and some with the drive to learn. Donations and financial support are also mainstays of a volunteer based organization such as ours and are greatly appreciated. As Chief Mechanical Officer, he reported work is nearing completion on the Fairbanks Morse 1857, WP512 is next slated for repair, followed by WP 501.

Thom Anderson, head of the WP Historical Society reported they were able to get three issues of The Headlight out last year as they had committed to. So far, one has gone out this year, second to go out around July/August and final issue before the end of the year. He also reported the WPRHS Convention went better than anyone thought it could. Besides sporting one of the highest attendances in the history of the event, a record profit was recorded which will benefit the library/archives. Special thanks go out to Frank Beavers and Steve Hayes for their excellent work.

Director Kerry Cochran reported as Superintendent of Operations that our train operations would not have been possible without the help of the many volunteers of the Operating Department. He thanked these dedicated people who not only have to run the trains, but also are the front line representatives of the Society dealing with the public. Thanks were also extended to the Mechanical Department for keeping the equipment in good running condition. Lastly, he announced that the Glad Hand Award presentation was to be postponed until Portola Railroad Days.

Director Wayne Monger, as one-half of the Society's newly formed Excursion Division, reminded all in attendance of the ACE Jazz Train Excursion scheduled August 7 as a Fundraiser for the Zephyr Project. Train departs Lathrop, CA at approximately 9 am with two return trips – one at 6 pm and one at 8 pm. There is the possibility of an on-board raffle and the car is fully ADA compliant.

Ed Wagner, Chair of the Election Committee presented the results of this year's elections, but not before thanking fellow committee members Jay Sarno and Vic Neves as well as Jay's wife and son, Julie and Ray, and Vic's wife, Annie, for all of their hard work and help.

Total ballots sent: 944    Total ballots returned: 434    Rate of return: 46%

Election tellers (counters) were: Don Borden, John Walker, David Epling. Election results were certified by Leslie Tigan, Portola City Clerk.

David Epling read the voting results:

Cochran: 410

Holmes: 415

Monger: 407

Additional votes of one or less were placed for the following write in candidates:

Don Borden, Alan Turner, Kent Stephens, Member #1749, Jim Murphy, Ken Roller, Vic Neves, first name unknown Miller, "Someone else", Larry Hanlon, Tom Mueller.

Upon the reading of the results, Ed announced he was resigning from the position of Election Committee Chair.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next membership meeting: Saturday, June 4, 2005

Location: Diesel Shop

Portola, CA

Respectively Submitted

Gail A. McClure