

Additional Director's Report/ Possible Agenda Item

I do not want to get everyone bent out of shape over this, but I do want my opinion out there for consideration. I have talked to Chris Skow recently about his planned Canyon excursions in August. While I am fully aware that the Board decided not to participate in this venture, I would like to point out that by doing so, we are turning down potentially thousands of dollars in income by assisting in these trips, **on a limited basis**. If the Board is comfortable with blowing off this income, so be it, but I think we should reconsider, **on our terms**.

Skow plans to run a dinner train to Keddie and return on the Saturday the train is in town. This accomplishes several things: potential for more income, the ability to turn the train on the wye at Keddie (and not in the Museum), and the possibility of watering the passenger cars at the UP's water risers by the yard office upon arrival on Friday, and upon the return from Keddie on Saturday (so we don't have to), which I suggested to Skow when I talked to him.

What Skow would like from us is to store the train in the Museum, similar to how we did before (RIP track/ramp track), during the Friday night and Saturday night layovers. Our involvement would be limited to opening up some room for the train (12 cars), and switching it in and out (without turning). I know this presents problems with where to put the displaced equipment, and the issue with the red-flagged tail track at our interchange, but I am willing to work on these issues (I do work in Portola, for now) in order to generate some income from switching fees, and having these passengers funneled through the Museum. I also suggest we order a large dumpster for the trash from the train, placed where we want it (which Skow would pay for, of course).

I know there are strong opinions and deep mistrust in getting involved with Skow, but I can't see turning down significant income because we don't like, or trust, the guy. He claims the train is about 50% sold, which is good in February for trips in August. Of course, UP hasn't bought into the dinner train yet, either - just the excursion.

I've worked with Skow on several ventures over the years, and they can try your patience, as I know first-hand. But, he wants to help the Museum, too. So, I'll await marching orders from the President and the Board. Consider carefully, and put the Museum and the FRRS first.

Steve Habeck
Vice President/Director