

FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: June 2017
ITEM: Event Report
FROM: Eugene Vicknair

2017 WP HISTORICAL CONVENTION

The 2017 Western Pacific Historical Convention was held in Reno, Nevada on May 4-7 at Harrah's Reno Resort.

First off, we have received a LOT of positive feedback on this convention. Far more than I recall for any recent one aside from Sacramento 5 years ago and that was mostly verbal. This has been emails predominately.

I want to thank a LOT of people who made this possible, starting with our presenters. I have to give a special call out to Stephen Hayes who stepped into a cancelled show slot with a great presentation. Thanks to Roy and Susan Richey who opened their home in Virginia City for tours and it was fantastic. Also to the staff of NSRM and the V&T Railroad, the owners of the four layouts we toured and the volunteers who kept this moving: Fred Ellenbaas, Leisa Wesch, David Epling, Kerry Cochran, RJ Meyers, Joanne Gerow, Charlie Spikes, David Elems and anyone I missed. Thanks to Greg Elems for being a great banquet speaker.

We had a lot of great vendors many of whom also donated to the fundraising raffle. Some even added more tables as the event went on. And I received a LOT of compliments on the Harrah's staff. We made some good friends with the folks at The Depot Brewery and may have a possible long term relationship there for special events. The ballpark dinner was well received (except for Steve getting sick) and we were able to get a lot of contacts via the RAL raffle.

We had 85 total registrations with only about 4 eventual no shows. Preliminary report on income was \$12,486 with a direct cost of \$9,258 and about another \$900 of indirect costs (items purchased for convention that can be reused). The two raffles raised \$670. Thank you to Gail McClure for her very generous donation of the framed Marc Desobeau print.

I will be writing a report for the Train Sheet, so if I have forgotten anything, please let me know.