



Would You Like to Work for the Railroad?

The museum operates trains every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day. If you have always wanted to have a taste of "working on the railroad," such as connecting air hoses, giving hand signals to the engineer, and pulling pins on couplers, then this is your opportunity.

Members who would like to participate in the museum's train operating crews are required first to take a rules examination and then to be instructed in safe operating procedures.

The rules examination is an open book test on the FRRS General Code of Operating Rules with no time limit. If you do not have a copy of the rules book, one will be provided for you. You must have a rules book in your possession to take the examination. A passing grade is 75% or above.

Please bring your own pencils!

Upon your successful completion of the rules exam, you will be instructed in hand signals, getting on and off of moving equipment, coupling of air brake hoses and other safe and correct operating procedures.

Members who wish to participate in train operations or any other work at the museum are required to sign a Release of Liability. This can be done at the time of taking the Rules Examination.

For safety reasons, we also require you to have heavy work boots that lace up over your ankles to prevent ankle injuries; and we require work gloves.

The crew training for 1996 will be held:

Saturday, April 27, 1996

Sunday, May 5, 1996

The sessions will run from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM on each day. You may attend the session on EITHER of these days.

Members who are unable to attend the classes on either of these two days may make arrangements to take the examination and receive instruction at any other time by calling the museum at (916) 832-4131 or stopping by the museum.

If you wish to attend the Saturday session, consider staying over and working at the museum on Sunday.

If you wish to attend the Sunday session, consider arriving a day early and working at the museum on Saturday.

Note: ANY previously-qualified member who wishes to participate in any operations THIS YEAR, must take and pass the rules examination BEFORE they will be allowed to operate. No Exceptions!

FRRS Board of Directors Election

By Steve Habeck

This year, the terms of Directors Gordon Wollesen, Peter Langdon, Vic Neves, Hank Stiles, and Steve Habeck are due to expire. Now is the time to consider serving your Society as a Director. Any FRRS member in good standing, except Associate, may serve as Director. Attending monthly Directors meetings in Portola, which can be quite long, is a requirement, and a good working knowledge of Museum activities is recommended. If you are interested, send in your name and a brief (100 words or less) candidacy statement to the Society office by May 1, 1996. The address is listed in the masthead of every issue of the Train Sheet.

Ballots and the candidacy statements will be mailed to the membership in May, probably with Train Sheet #78. The election will be held, and ballots counted, at the FRRS Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner on Saturday, June 22, 1996, at 7:30 PM, at the Museum. Get involved with your Society, and help it grow!

Pacific Limited Update

By Steve Habeck

The Pacific Limited schedule for 1996 appeared in the last issue of the Train Sheet, and PLG Crew Chief Bob Harper reports that he has received some inquiries from interested FRRS members about being car hosts. He has requested that we put out an urgent call for volunteers with formal medical training (doctors, nurses, EMT's) for any and all segments of both 1996 trips. If you, or someone you know, has the medical expertise and would like to be volunteers on these trains, please contact Crew Chief Bob Harper as soon as possible. Thank you. Bob Harper, 2 Pleasant Avenue, Corte Madera, CA 94925, (415) 924-0170

The Ties That Bind

We were notified that a large number of good used railroad ties were available through government surplus from the Sierra Army Depot at Herlong, CA. (60 miles from Portola.) Bruce Cooper made arrangements through the State Surplus reutilization program for us to purchase 500 ties. Norm Holmes lined up a flat bed truck and trailer outfit from Reno to haul the ties. Norm and Ken Iverson went to Herlong where the Army's forklift loaded the ties. At Portola, Norm, Ken Iverson and Ken Roller helped unload the ties and stacked them on one of our flat cars. Tobie Smith operated the crane for the unloading process. This will give us a good supply of replacement ties and for a possible future track extension.

It's Tax Time Again

Pending any changes Congress might make, donations of cash or property to charitable organizations are deductible from your Federal and State Income Tax, if you itemize deductions. This includes your membership dues. For a one time gift of \$250 or more we will issue a formal acknowledgment for tax purposes. Property donations, such as a railroad car or locomotive, valued at \$5,000 or more, require an official appraisal to claim the deduction. The gift you make now will help you on your 1996 tax form.

Your Will

This is probably as good a time as any to remind you about your will. If you have railroad related items in your collection that you would like to donate to our museum upon your demise, they should be listed in your will. Sometimes relatives do not appreciate the value of one's collection and these items are destroyed. We also accept cash or securities. These would be added to our growing endowment fund. Another option would be to create a trust to pay income to your spouse or other relative for life and designate the remaining principal to us. If you have any questions about any of the above, we will be happy to help find the answers.