



- Santa Trains 2018 -

- Eugene Vicknair

The Museum's Santa Trains wrapped up just 4 days before Christmas this year. Except for one day with high winds and a little rain, we had cold but clear weather for the event and very enthusiastic attendees.

Ethan Doty did the lion's share of decoration, with a few other volunteers helping out to place over 11,500 lights on our caboose train and decorations around the museum. Southern Pacific GP9 2873 pulled the train that consisted of cabooses Denver and Rio Grande Western 01414, Union Pacific 25283, Sacramento Northern 1642, Missouri Pacific 13878, Rock Island 17174 (former UP 24592), UP 25732 and SP 4706 "Christine".

Car counts for each day were:

Saturday, 12/8 - 113	
Friday, 12/14 - 33	Saturday, 12/15 - 190
Friday, 12/21 - 71	Saturday, 12/22 - 180
Total - 587 cars	

Our volunteers and staff kept things moving. In addition to running the trains, we also had members working the gate, handling the Museum Store, handing out cookies and hot drinks and just making sure everything was kept in motion. A huge thank you to EVERYONE who pitched in and made the 2018 Santa Trains another success. Almost all of these people were at all five events and the others made at least one night each weekend.

Major kudos go to Operations Superintendent Loren Ross for his top-notch management of

train crews, car attendants, and crossing guards; and to Vice-President Greg Elems for roving supervision as he documented the event with photography. Loren, Greg, Ethan and Erik McKay also made trips to replenish supplies several times, sometimes on short notice. Special thanks to Eric McKay who donated \$100 toward the Santa Trains.

Those who worked the event include:

Steve Habeck, Mary Habeck, Kathy Errecart, Zayden Errecart, Kevin Errecart, Jennifer Harley, KC Dunn, Jean Danielson, Tajanae Yager, Ali Doty, Ethan Doty, Loren Ross, Charlie Spikes, Greg Elems, David Elems, Vickie Krois, Eddie Powell, Janet Steeper, Bil Jackson, Bart Hansen, David Hansen, Fred Elenbaas, Eugene Vicknair, Craig Simmons, Kevin Ross, Barbara Jackson and Duane Vander Veen.

As they have done at Santa Trains for the last 20 years, Santa was played by Dave Rudolph while

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2019 FRRS Election

Three seats, presently being held by Bob Sims, Roger Stabler and Janet Steeper, are available for the June 2019 FRRS election. Nominees must be FRRS members in good standing at the time of nomination. Nominations are open until January 31st, 2019

Please see the Membership web page for more information on nominating yourself or someone else.

Would YOU like to work on the Railroad? Join our Operating Department!

- Paul Finnegan, Crew Caller

The museum operates trains every weekend between Memorial Day and Labor Day. We also run our Pumpkin Express in October, Santa Trains in December and special event trains. 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.



FRRS members (active and above) who would like to participate in the museum's train operating crews are required first to take a rules examination, sign a liability release and then to be instructed in safe operating procedures.

Two crew-training classes are scheduled for 2019. They are scheduled for Saturday, April 27th and Sunday, May 26th, starting at 10 am at the museum in Portola. You need only attend one day of training. Please use the "Join our Operating Department" link on the museum's home web page to register for the class day of your choice.

(Santa Trains...continued from front cover)

Mrs. Claus was played by Linda Knutson.

Cookies were supplied by:

Barbara Jackson, Kim Ross, Greg Elems family, Charlie Spikes, Mary Habeck, Ali Doty, Janet Steeper, Louise Dunbar, Mary Ann Vicknair, Eugene Vicknair and Leonard's Grocery Store.

Advertising was done by Big Fish Creations with help from Eugene Vicknair, Paul Finnegan and Greg Elems. Eugene also donated hand bill posters to accompany our large full color posters. These were placed around the Eastern Plumas and Reno areas by Patty Clawson, Greg Elems, KC Dunn and others. TV channel 2 in Reno ran a story on the Santa Trains before our final weekend and the Portola Reporter also featured the event in an article. Michael Clawson of Big Fish Creations took extensive photos and video for us to use in future

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Museum Web Page Update – December 31, 2018

- Paul Finnegan, Webmaster

The Santa Trains ran again in December. I created a gallery of photos from the event and kept the news item web page up to date as things progressed.

Several new items have been added to the WPRM Photo & Video Gallery on the About Us pull-down menu.

The website has been set up for 2019 with the latest FRRS calendar and the sign-up tools are all updated for 2019.

Museum Sponsors

The Western Pacific played a major role in developing the economy of Plumas County and the surrounding region. The Western Pacific Railroad Museum is proud to be a part of that heritage and to hold a position in supporting the ongoing economic health of our community. We welcome the support of that community in return. Helping to preserve the Western Pacific is good for tourism, good for our regional culture and good for business.

We ask our members and visitors to support our business sponsors, companies who have generously contributed to the museum and its mission to preserve the Western Pacific family.

If you are a business owner, see how you can support the WP Museum, your community and improve your advertising and networking outreach through our sponsorship program. See www.wplives.org/sponsors_how_to_become.html to learn how.



H & R Block - David Hansen

2100 Main St, Ste. B, Susanville, CA 96130

Tel: 530-257-9339

The Train Sheet

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

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promotions.

This year we also had vendors for the event: Dennis Dickinson of Street Cart Café, serving up hot dogs, tamales and drinks. was there all five nights, making the shop smell great with his hot dogs, tamales and other hot foods. Treat Yourself of Reno, NV, owned by Robert Hudson, was there for the final two weekends serving up sweet and spicy treats, gourmet nuts, snack mixes and kettle corn. Thank you to both Street Cart and Treat Yourself for giving discounts to our event volunteers.

We also had some visits from the local wildlife. We were treated to deer roaming around the balloon track while two coyotes were spotted on the property. Despite many folks keeping a lookout, our local bear “Yogi” appears to have not made an appearance.

Thanks again to everyone to worked the Santa Trains! We look forward to an even bigger event in 2019. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all our FRRS members.



Santa sent his special helpers, Dave Rudolph and Linda Knutson, to meet the children and provide generous cheer at the 2018 Santa Trains event.

- photo by Michael Clawson