

# THE TRAIN SHEET

News from the Feather River Rail Society



Jul - Sep 2009  
Issue 149



**- THE TRAIN SHEET -**

News from the Feather River Rail Society and the Western Pacific Railroad Museum at Portola

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Contribution Deadlines: Last Day of February, April, June, August, October and December

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**FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY  
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
MUSEUM at PORTOLA**

P.O. Box 608 . Portola, CA . 96122-0608

Museum: 530.832.4131  
Fax: 530.832.1854

The museum grounds are open to the public from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily from the first Saturday in April through the first Monday in November. The Diesel Shop is open from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily during these dates.

Train operations begin the last Saturday in May and continue each weekend through the first Monday in September.

The museum grounds are closed to the public from the first Tuesday in November through the first Friday in March except for special events in which advance arrangements have been made. If you wish to visit during the closure period, it is advisable to call in advance and find out if the museum will be open.

Entrance to the museum is free, although a suggested donation of \$5.00 is greatly appreciated.

The Feather River Rail Society, a tax-exempt public benefit California corporation, is the historical society for the Western Pacific Railroad and operator of the Western Pacific Railroad Museum in Portola, California.

***The FRRS is not associated with the Union Pacific Railroad.***

FRRS Tax ID number is 68-0002774  
Member of the Association of Railway Museums and the Tourist Railway Association, Inc

**- BOARD OF DIRECTORS and OFFICERS -**

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David Epling	Museum Manager	giftshop@wplives.org

*Cover Photo - WP Brownhoist crane MW90. One of three WP cranes at Portola.  
- Mike Mucklin photo*

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***Preserving "THE FEATHER RIVER ROUTE"***



**- WEB PAGES of INTEREST -**

FRRS Official Site	www.WPLives.org
WPRR Historical Society	www.wprrhs.org
CZ Virtual Museum	calzephyr.railfan.net
California Zephyr	californiazephyr.org
Western Pacific Pages	www.WPLives.com
WP Virtual Museum	wpmuseum.railfan.net
Sac Northern On-Line	www.people.virginia.edu/~ggg9y
Tidewater Southern Pages	www.TidewaterSouthern.com
Tidewater Southern	www5.pair.com/rattenne/WP/TidelIndex.htm
Central Calif Traction	www.trainweb.org/tractionco/

## HOT AUGUST NIGHTS 2009

- Tom Carter

After a successful campaign to reach out to the families of the Reno Sparks area at the 2008 Hot August Nights car show in Reno, this year, the Feather River Rail Society decided to renew their sponsorship agreement with one of the area's largest events. Last year, we reached out to literally thousands of families at the event who lived in the Reno area, yet had no idea we existed. As an event sponsor, we also included locomotive rental and gift shop discount coupons as part of the exhibitor's packs to all participants. According to the numbers, the results were about on par with what we expected being a first time sponsor. Although we signed on near the deadline last year, we deemed it an overall success.

Based on that success, we expected even more out of this year's sponsorship, and due to the early start planning, we were able to take advantage of better prices in regards to advertising materials. Monday, August 3rd, Rod McClure, Seth Adams, Bob Simms, and I loaded up the Model "T" railcar on a flatbed trailer, and loaded banners, tables, chairs, brochures, pictures, wire racking (to hang the photos on in the display), models and locomotive parts and we headed out for Reno. Matt Parker, Charlie Spikes, Ed "Gizmo" Powell & Bil Jackson had worked feverishly the week before to get our Southern Pacific fire engine ready for the ball as well. It was a neat feeling Monday to watch Matt and "Gizmo" take turns cruising around the parking lot of the museum wailing the siren. They had worked hard to get the funky old machine back to operating condition, so it was good to see them able to enjoy it. I was met in Reno by Matt Parker and Charlie Spikes who helped assemble the booth into the late evening hours.

Tuesday, August 4th, the "Corporate Village" area opened to a beautiful day with many people about enjoying the show. Charlie Spikes and Cody Wilson had come out to assist Matt and I in spreading the word that we are in fact a local family friendly tourist destination, and not "the museum in Carson City". Charlie immediately set to work finishing off repairs on site to the Model "T" and was determined for a Wednesday morning start to the little truck. Wednesday, the

"T" lit right off with minimal effort, and our crew was joined by Craig Simmons, Matt Stentz, Eddie Powell, Bill Parker, and Pat & Linda Brimmer, who drove out from Salt Lake City, Utah, to work the booth. Though we talked to many families and took lots of photos, we all enjoyed the event, and enjoyed each other's company. We even got a chance to talk a little shop as well.

The Model "T" was a HUGE draw; just something about that little car makes the "motorheads" go nuts. When the crowd would thin out away from our booth, Charlie would get that sly grin and say "Watch this..." He'd light off the "T" (remember, this old contraption still has the old hand crank!), and RIGHT NOW, crowds would flock. It was pretty neat to watch. People were just fascinated by it.



HAN visitors checking out our Model "T" railcar.

- Tom Carter photo

Despite the name of the event, temperatures were actually very mild for this time of year. In fact, we had rain one day! By the way, I hear the "Car Gods" are erecting a statue of Charlie Spikes in Victorian Square in Sparks to pay homage to their cars' savior on Wednesday of the event. When the rain hit, Charlie had jumped up and ran around the joint like a nut frantically closing hoods and windows on the exhibited cars near the booth, saving untold thousands of dollars worth of interiors. My family has a '55 Chevy and can attest to what Mother Nature can and will do to the interior of a classic car. The motorheads were very grateful to Charlie's quick action and selflessness; he was soaked to the bone when finished. This is just one example of the sacrifices of the individuals who worked the booth. Thanks a MILLION to Stephanie Parker for making sack lunches for the crews

throughout the week. That was REALLY appreciated, as "carnival food" can get old (and expensive) after a while. Homemade "sammiches" hit the spot.

According to the official numbers, the gift shop did pretty well during the week of and the week after Hot August Nights, with daily receipts up over \$1000.00 a day. David Epling reported getting a few coupons from last year through the gift shop for R.A.L.'s; it seems that some folks were intrigued enough to make our museum a part of their 2009 travel plans to Hot August Nights. THAT, folks, is what it is all about. When Seth and I went around the museum on the following Monday to put equipment away, we saw many folks around the museum wearing Hot August Nights swag, and enjoying themselves in our place. RAL's were booked up pretty near solid, and we made a few bucks of our investment back. In fact, we made a LOT of our money back in just those two weeks, and the rest definitely went to a GREAT advertising opportunity. It is an indisputable fact that Hot August Nights was a BIG success for your rail society, and I look forward to next year's event.

Special thanks to Mike Mucklin for his great advertising pieces and Eugene Vicknair for putting together the Hot August Nights museum brochure we gave out for the event.



Our former Southern Pacific fire truck made its Hot August Nights debut this year. (above)

The Model "T" was a popular photo opportunity. (below)

- Tom Carter photos



## AROUND THE MUSEUM

- David Epling, Museum Manager

Gross revenues through the gift shop for July 2009 totaled \$23,718.64. The total includes RALs and donations. Foot traffic is noticeably higher than this month last year. Two factors are the lack of canyon fires and we are drawing a lot more people from the Reno area who are looking for things to do closer to home.

We have started taking credit card numbers for RAL reservations. In June, we had five no-show, un-cancelled reservations. So, people will now be told that we require a credit card to hold the reservation and if they are a no-show we will charge the card a 25.00 cancellation fee.

Bottled water bearing the museum logo has arrived, as well as 22 oz thermal mugs with special WP graphics for the soda fountain. A

special run of these mugs includes the word VOLUNTEER on the side, available to our hard-working volunteers. Purchase of these mugs entitles one to free refills. The graphics were designed in-house by Eugene Vicknair.

A huge thank you to Ed Powell. During the weekend of Sept 5-6, he replaced all of the malfunctioning overhead light fixtures and tubes in the Display Room with new equipment, under the direction of Vice President Habeck and myself. That is a huge help for that room! The whole cost for everything was under \$150. Wayne Monger is planning to order the appropriate UV light filter covers for these fixtures and tubes. This is required for any room where sensitive / irreplaceable paper documents are displayed to the public. Ed also took a few minutes to fix Hap Manitt's office typewriter that is displayed on Hap's old desk in the Display Room.

## MY SEPTEMBER CHORE LIST

- Phil Schmeierer

*Long-time FRRS member Phil "Evil Dr. Cornbinder" Schmeierer took some time for a working vacation at the museum in September. Here's a sample of what he worked on...*

Well, here's the chores I got done.

Baggage car jacked up and bearings rolled. Gave them a listen to with the listening rod. Charlie Spikes helped with this chore. They sound and look good.

WP bay window caboose 428 was jacked up and got her center plates shimmed and lubed. The truck swing hangars on one side were shimmed as well, with help from Charlie. Also, the Conductor's valve was leaking badly, so it was removed and replaced with a regular "Ball Valve".

Charlie and I jacked up the Union Pacific, ex-Rock Island, bay window caboose and our Missouri Pacific caboose and lubed the center plates on both. I also replaced a brake shoe and fixed the angle cock plumbing to stop leak in the brake pipe on the MoP caboose.

Southern Pacific GP9 2873, one of our main RAL locomotives, had three shoes replaced and the brakes adjusted.

Western Pacific GP9 731's Nathan M5R24 air horn was rebuilt and tuned. (These horns were WP's standard diesel horn model for most of the diesel years of the railroad. They are very valuable and highly regarded by railroaders and horn enthusiasts.) The horn is chained and locked to the lifting lugs on the roof. Seth Adams and I removed the sliding FRA 223 glass side windows and rails from static display Southern Pacific SD9 4450 and installed them on the WP 731.

WP GP7 707's M5R24 horn was also rebuilt and tuned. Horn is chained and locked to the lifting lug on the roof. I also locked down WP 2001's horn.

WP 805A's installed horn was tuned, but did not respond well. The horn's mounting bolts spin, so the horn was not removed. A spare straight M5 was rebuilt and tuned. It was tested on the 731 and sounds good! It is now stored so that Dave McClain and the Zephyr guys can install it to the 805A when they figure out why the bolts spin. I'll then rebuild the current 805A

horn at a later date for another WP locomotive.

The Museum Ford F-250 truck's starter died and a Rebuilt NAPA one was installed. Also, I installed a trailer hitch on the F-250 to tow around the Chicago-Pneumatic Air Compressor. I replaced the spark plugs on the C-P Air Compressor and it runs much better, as the old plugs were fouled. New C-P Gaskets arrived and are now installed on the hoses and accessories.

I removed the old ice box in the "Silver Shower" Car and cleaned it out. It was a very nasty science project in there! It is now in the shop, nice and clean at the west door, with cold drinking water in it for employees/volunteers.

WPMW 200 ton crane 37 was fueled by Steve Habeck and I with fuel treatment added. We also fueled the Little Giant Crane and put in additive. Seth and I fixed the foot brake springs on the Little Giant so that they function properly now.

The Oil Car trucks had to be jacked and the bearing adaptors placed back in the correct position on east truck. Charlie Spikes helped out.

That's all for now!

*Phil (left) and Charlie Spikes work on the MoP caboose.*

*- David Epling photo*



## SUMMER STEAM REPORT

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

A great deal has been accomplished on the WP 165 in the past year, including the completion of the ultrasonic thickness mapping on the first two boiler courses and the steam dome. This work was done almost exclusively by Nathan Osborn and James Cowdery. No significant sheet wastage has been found to date. They will continue on the wrapper sheet, backhead, tubesheets, firebox, and other stayed areas later this summer and into the fall, with the goal to have all readings done before the season is up.

I am very grateful to the UP steam crew, Scott Turley especially, for inspecting the boiler while the 844 was in town. We were able to confer over the phone and compare notes. Scott recommended, and I agreed that the lower portion of the front tube sheet should be replaced due to many the bridge cracks that have been welded, and the bulging of that portion of the sheet from over rolling of the tubes. I have priced out a replacement plate that, as of this writing, is \$365.00. I am also working with Gary Smith, owner of Mission Tool Works in Hayward for a donation of time on his water-jet cutting machine. This will speed up the work of cutting out the replacement plate substantially. Another patch on the outer wrapper at the location of the rear sandbox is also necessary. This piece is not as large as the tube sheet plate and should be comparable in cost.

Thanks to the following for their recent generous donations for steam projects: Roger Stabler - \$1000, Nathan Osborn - \$1000, and James Cowdery - \$500.

Hopefully as you read this some of the spring rigging has been removed for repair and renewal. Most of this work can be done off site. The repair of the springs themselves will have to be farmed out. Roger is going to get quotes from the company they used for the SP 1233 spring repair.

Charlie Spikes has coordinated pumping out the oil from the tender bunker, thank you to him for getting that done. We can now work on getting the tanks off the frame for sandblasting and deck renewal.

We welcome new steam department member David Wallace, who is also the new owner of the ATSF 999197 caboose. David is an accomplished machinist and mechanic and another former member of the storied Rio Vista steam crew. Movement of our steam department DRGW boxcar

from Rio Vista is still on hold pending the removal of its contents by BAERA. They have secured a shipping container for this purpose; with any luck we will be able to move the car before the snow flies in Portola. The WP stringboard and the Oakland Commissary sign will move with the car, as well as surplus parts from the SN caboose not deemed necessary to their restoration of the car to the period they have chosen.



## SAYING GOODBYE TO DANA

- Chris Allan, Steam CMO

WPRM steam team member and good friend Dana Greeley passed away suddenly Sunday, July 26th, 2009. He was 49 years old. Cause is yet to be determined. His only surviving family is his brother, Doug. I spoke with Dana that Saturday before, and he was feeling poorly. I urged him to get to a clinic but he was determined to put his doctor visit off until Monday. I could be angry at him for being so stubborn, but that would be fruitless. Dana's stubbornness was actually one of his more endearing qualities. His being argumentative and opinionated led me to more thoughtful decisions, or just shook me out of my supposed "Tree of Knowledge" at which point I would land on my butt, which would in turn cause me to rethink whatever I thought I was doing.

Dana and I met in the late 1970's at the then California Railway Museum, now the Western Railway Museum near Rio Vista, California. I was involved in the steam program there, and he was primarily involved in

maintaining the diesels. Of course, in an environment like that, with so few volunteers, everyone did everything, so Dana and I would work together on track projects and the like. In those days Dana seemed a bit brusque. That might be attributed to the museum environment, youthful exuberance, or many other things; however later in life, removed from the Museum we became great pals. I would look forward to our driving trips over the mountain to Portola, or the gatherings in our friend's backyards watching G-Scale trains going in circles.

Back in the day we really did think we were immortal. Shoving cuts of cars around with electric locomotives in the dark gave us a sense of empowerment, I suppose. Now we know this not to be true. Dana's passing is a moment of great sadness for all of us, not only do we mourn this great guy, but also the passing of our youth.

David Wallace related the following: "Dana left this world within 20 feet of where he entered it... he was the only person I met who was born in his parent's living room!"

No doubt his parents were there to welcome him back home. Goodbye old friend.



Dana Greeley  
- Chris Allan photo

## DEPARTURE: REED JACKSON

- Rod McClure and Eugene Vicknair

Reed Francis Jackson loved trains from the time he was a child. He was born in Denver on Sept. 14, 1954, and graduated from North High School. At 18, he started working as a brakeman for Union Pacific, following his father and grandfather into the railroad business.

Reed was well-known as the conductor for the Union Pacific Steam Department, and a good friend and member of the FRRS. He died following complications from a surgery to remove a brain tumor on Saturday, August 15, at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado. He was 54 years old.

He was well-known among fans of the UP steam program for always looking the part of the classic passenger train conductor: dark-blue suit with brass Union Pacific jacket buttons, white shirt, black hat and blue vest. He took great pride in this. Among the historic railroad memorabilia he collected were 30 Union Pacific conductor suits. As a memorial, one of his uniforms will be placed on display in the FRRS Display Room.

Reed worked as conductor on UP publicity and excursion trips for company executives, the public, and the famous, including former President George H.W. Bush. A Bush family excursion from Houston to College Station, Texas, was done in celebration of Bush's 80th birthday. He was also the conductor on the train that hauled the Olympic Torch around prior to the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Reed even carried the torch part of the way.

Jack Holland, a Union Pacific machinist from Cheyenne who knew Jackson for many years, called him "the greatest ambassador Union Pacific ever had."

Reed made friends on every steam trip, said his brother-in-law Michael Engelbert. "He could talk to anyone, whether it was a child or a 90-year-old."

According to Engelbert, thousands of people asked him questions during the trips and the numerous stops the steam trains made. "He'd answer questions even at the end of a 16-hour shift," said Holland. "He was always courteous and polite and extremely sharp" about railroads and the history of the steam engines.

If anything went wrong, "he was very resourceful and could calm everyone down," said Steve Lee, Union Pacific's manager of train operating policies. "He

always cared about the safety and comfort of the passengers" and "patrolled" the cars constantly.

Reed was last in Portola as part of the successful UP 844 trips in April and May, when the FRRS was able to give a large number of donors a chance to ride segments of the train's route on former WP rails. He was a great supporter of the Society and counted many of our members as good friends, including Rod and Gail McClure and Cody Wilson.

He is survived by his wife, Martha Mazur Jackson; two daughters, Celeste Parker of Frederick, CO and Erin Jackson of Fort Collins, CO; one grandchild; his parents, Robert and Marylou Jackson of Lakewood, CO; a brother, Kent Jackson of Petaluma, CA; and three sisters, Linda Jackson of Denver, CO, Shawn Engelbert of Denver, CO and Stacy Birkeness of Littleton, CO.

Thank you, Reed, for your support and your friendship. You are greatly missed.



Reed Jackson  
- Alex Ramos photo

## 2010 BOARD ELECTIONS

For 2010, we have three board seats up for election, currently held by directors Wayne Monger, Tom Carter and Norman Holmes. Following are the relevant dates for the election process:

**Jan 1 - 31:** Nominations accepted. They can be made by email or in writing to the addresses below.

**Feb 1 - 28:** Any candidate that does not notify Election Chair Russ Johnson in writing of their intent to withdraw from the election by February 28, 2010 will be on the ballot.

**Mar 1 - 31:** Candidates need to send their written candidate statements to Chairman Johnson.

**April 12:** Ballots mailed to all members by this date.

**May 29:** All ballots must be received by this date. Ballots will be counted on June 4, 2010 and the results announced at the Annual Membership Meeting held at the museum on **June 5, 2010**.

You can send nominations, questions, and other items either by mail or email. The official election email address is [election@wplives.org](mailto:election@wplives.org). Chairman Johnson's personal email is [brear\\_russ@yahoo.com](mailto:brear_russ@yahoo.com). You can also reach him by phone at 209.351.1674, or by post mail at 2019 South Olive Avenue, Stockton, CA, 95215.



August 15, 2009

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

P.01/01

TRACK BULLETIN FORM C

NO. 1 ON GREELEY SUBDIVISION

AUGUST 15, 2009

TO UP 1 EAST

FORT COLLINS



1. TO REED JACKSON, FORT COLLINS COLORADO.
2. THIS ORDER IS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF YOUR VALUED LOVE, FRIENDSHIP
3. AND BROTHERHOOD, BOTH IN SERVICE AND PERSONAL CONDUCT OF WHICH
4. YOU MADE US PROUD.
5. MAY THIS LAST TRIP IMPART TO YOU AS PLEASANT A JOURNEY AS THE
6. SPLENDID RECORD YOU HAVE LEFT US.
7. MAY YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OF WAY FROM THIS; YOUR LAST STARTING
8. TERMINAL TO YOUR FINAL DESTINATION WITH THE LORD AND ANGELS IN
9. HEAVEN AND FIND EN ROUTE NOTHING BUT THE RIGHT OF WAY AND CLEAR
10. SIGNALS AHEAD. THE CARS OF GOOD FELLOWSHIP YOU HAVE SET OUT
11. ALONG THE LINE OF FAITHFUL SERVICE ENTITLE YOU TO THIS WELL
12. DESERVED REST YOU HAVE SO HONORABLY EARNED.
13. ACCEPT THIS HI BALL AS A TOKEN OF OUR LOVE AND APPRECIATION
14. TO YOUR FINAL DESTINATION AND GREATEST JOURNEY OF ALL.
15. SIGNED. YOUR FRIENDS, OFFICERS AND CO-WORKERS. GOD BLESS YOU.

16. OK 08/15/2009 1700  
 (08 15 2009) 1700

DISPATCHER: AYF (ALL YOUR FRIENDS)

# Feather River Rail Society - 2010 Calendar

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## January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 1-31 Director Nominations for 2010 elections
- 9 Board Meeting - 1 PM Portola

## February.. Grounds Clean-up

- 6 Board Meeting - 1 PM Lathrop, CA  
Holiday Inn Express
- 28 Train Sheet Deadline

## March.. Prepare for Museum Opening

- 1 Election Withdrawal Deadline
- 6 Board Meeting - 1 PM Portola
- 13 Winterail Stockton

## April.. Prepare for Season Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 2 Museum opens to public
- 4 Easter - Museum Closed
- 5-10 Steam Department Work Session
- 10 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola
- 16-17 WPRRHS Convention Stockton
- 19 Election Ballots mailed to membership
- 19-25 Facilities Work Week
- 30 Train Sheet Deadline

## May.. Prepare for Season Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 1 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola
- 29 Ballot Return Deadline - 5 PM  
Operating Season Opens  
RAL Engineers Meeting
- 31 Memorial Day

## June.. Caboose Trains Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 5 Board Meeting - 1 PM Portola  
Member Appreciation Day  
Members Bar-B-Que - 5:30 PM  
Annual Membership Meeting - 7:30 PM  
Election Results
- 11-13 Dunsmuir Railroad Days Dunsmuir
- 30 Train Sheet Deadline

## July.. Caboose Trains Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 4 Independence Day
- 10 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola  
Installation of New Board
- 29-31 Steam Department Work Session

## August.. Caboose Trains Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 1-8 Hot August Nights
- 7 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola
- 19-22 Portola Railroad Days
- 31 Train Sheet Deadline

## September.. Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 6 Labor Day
- 11 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola
- 19 Operating Season Ends
- 25 Railfan Photography Day - 10 AM - 10 PM

## October.. Winter Prep Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM

- 2 Board Meeting - 4 PM Portola
- 16-24 Facilities Week
- 21-23 Steam Department Work Session
- 31 Train Sheet Deadline

## November.. Winter Prep Hours: 10 AM - 5 PM until 1st Monday

- 6 Board Meeting - 1 PM Sacramento, CA TBD  
Museum Closes to Public
- 11 Veterans Day
- 25 Thanksgiving - Museum Closed
- 27-28 Work Session  
Santa Train decorations and winterization of facility

## December.. Santa Trains

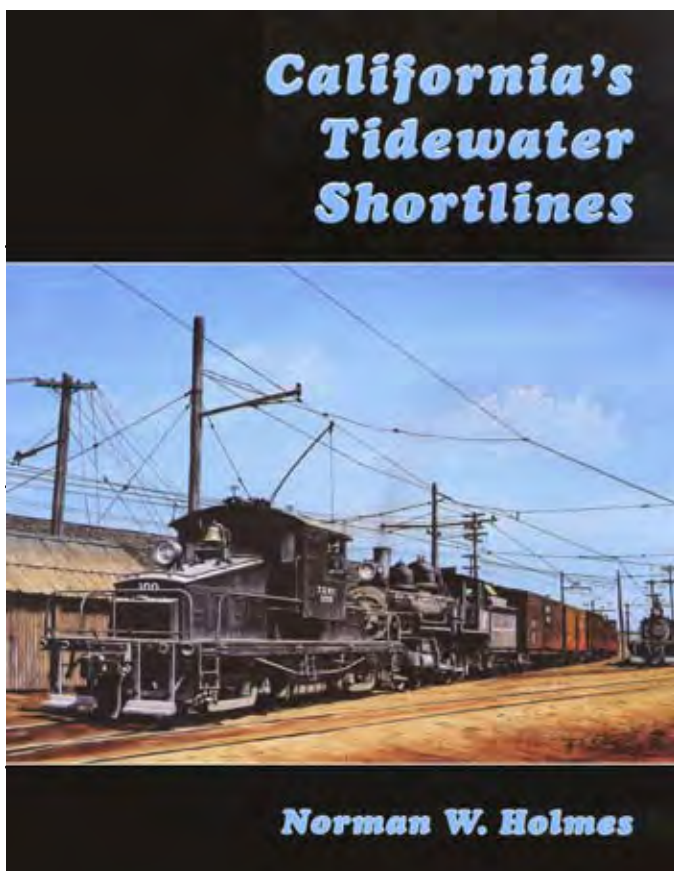
- 4 Board Meeting - 1 PM Portola  
Santa Train - 5 PM
- 11 Santa Train - 5 PM
- 12 Santa Train clean-up and Facility Closedown
- 25 Christmas
- 31 Train Sheet Deadline

## NEW NORM HOLMES BOOK

Chief founder and long-time FRRS director Norman Holmes has a new book out: "California's Tidewater Shortlines." This book covers the shortline railroads that reached or worked the docks on navigable water in Northern California. Roads covered include the Tidewater Southern, Central California Traction, Stockton Terminal & Eastern, Howard Terminal, Alameda Belt Line, Oakland Terminal and the State Belt in San Francisco. Many rare black and white photos can be found inside, as well as some color photos. There are rosters for most of the lines covered.

128 pages softcover, published by Shade Tree Books. Norm's new book is available through the FRRS Gift Shop and via the On-Line Store at <http://giftshop.wplives.org>. Price is \$32.95 and FRRS members get a discount when purchasing through the store.

New items, including models, books, DVDs, drink mugs and shirts, are being added to the On-Line Store on a regular basis. All proceeds go to support the FRRS and our mission of preserving, restoring and presenting the Western Pacific Railroad for future generations.



## DINING IN THE DINER

- Eugene Vicknair, Zephyr Project Manager

As part of the Membership Appreciation Day on September 26, the volunteers working that day got a unique chance to enjoy a meal cooked and served in our *California Zephyr* dining car "Silver Plate". I was joined by Vicki and Deborah Epling, Cheri Johnson and my mother, Mary Ann, in cooking a breakfast of waffles, bacon, beignets (a French-Cajun pastry) and fruit.

Since the appliances in the "Plate" are not functioning yet, a set of electric cooking equipment was brought in to prepare the food (Thanks to Dave and Vicki Epling for loaning some of the appliances). Steve Habeck and Seth Adams have been working hard to get the electrical and sound systems working in the car and both got a workout on that Saturday morning. The volunteers filed in before the event started and were met by a wave of bacon smell wafting from the kitchen.

Everyone had a great time during our first, "full-up" meal cooked and served in the "Plate". The beignets were a big hit and everyone just could not get enough bacon. According to comments made by a CSRM docent when we were moving the car, this was likely the first full meal prepared in the car in almost 30 years.

During the UP 844 layover, we held our first dinner in the car. It was a catered meal for several of our large donors. Lena's Cantina in Portola provided the food for that event, which featured myself and Tom Carter acting as waiters, complete with black aprons featuring CZ and WP pins.

Thanks to everyone who helped out to make these events a success! We will be holding more events in the Silver Plate in the coming year.



Coming next issue, a report on the special Mini-Zephyr train that ran up the Feather River Canyon and was on display at the Museum, as well as the recent work on the 805-A and the Silver Plate .

## July 2009 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Calendar - Minutes removed by motion 09-07-01. Revised consent calendar approved motion 09-07-02.

. Minutes - from the June 2009 BOD Meeting.  
. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end of June 2009.

### 2. Business Motions

#### Motion 09-07-03

##### Railroad Days Yard Sale

Motion to allow yard sale of surplus items during Portola Railroad Days 2009.

Parker / Vicknair. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

#### Motion 09-07-04

##### Training and Qualification Program

Motion to accept concept for a training and qualification program. Further details to be developed.

Brehm / McClure. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

#### Motion 09-07-05

##### Purchase of Air Gauge Tester

Written report submitted. Cost is usually \$1000. Man in Texas willing to sell for \$400. We have one but it does not fit our gauges. Need to find out if it is currently calibrated. Seth will ensure it is in good working order.

Tabled to August Meeting. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

#### Motion 09-07-06

##### Sale of Westinghouse Traction Motors

SF Bay Railroad has an ex-Navy Baldwin that needs 2 traction motors. Motion to sell 2 good Westinghouse motors to SF Bay RR for \$5000 each, FOB Portola.

Parker / Vicknair. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

### Manager's Report

- Written report submitted
- Yesterday requested officially by Plumas County Fair. August 16, last day of fair, they would like our help and make a presentation for their Rail Day.
- Have had requests for Party Caboose. President is going to get contracts and releases completed.

· Gross revenue for gift shop totaled \$23,718.64. This is a daily average of 790.62.

· Foot traffic is noticeably higher than this month last year, 2 factors are the lack of canyon fires and we are drawing a lot more people from the Reno area.

· We have implemented a program to take a credit card number for RAL Reservations. We now require a credit card to hold the reservation and if they are a no show we will charge the card a 25.00 cancellation fee.

· Bottled water bearing museum logo has arrived as well as the 22oz thermal mugs for the soda fountain machine.

· Big White Forklift up and down lever broke off at the weld 7-8-09. Charlie Spikes was able to do a fix that makes it useable.

### Director's Reports

*Vicknair* – Fence install around east and south property lines delayed due to economic conditions.

### Department Reports

*Mechanical* - Written report submitted. WP 731 as of July 6, 2009 is semi operational. Loco starts and runs, but cannot move under its own power due to a fault in the AC circuitry. It is hoped to be fully operational by the end of summer. The QRR 3 is at a standstill due to some missing brake parts for the rare 14 EL brake stand. All active RAL locos are to be preferably cycled through the shop to receive annual inspections. The 1100 has already received such an inspection. The 2873 will need a good shopping this year. Items that need to be addressed are replacing rings on at least 2 pistons, addressing water leaks, and performing an annual inspection.

### Committee Reports

*Awards* – Gladhand placed on hiatus due to cost.

*Advertising* – Written report submitted. Presentation of new digital signboard, donated by Matt and Stephanie Parker. Can be used at off-site events like special shows, Hot August Nights, Winterail, etc. Matt will take care of it. Work progressing on billboard in Reno, Hot August Nights and local publications.

*Publications* – Written report submitted. Discussion of needed columns and submissions. Seth also submitted report for Mechanical for the Train Sheet, not noted in written report.

*Member Appreciation Day* – Written report submitted. Questions about budget for Member Meeting dinner and cost of meals for Member Appreciation Day.

Dinner for MAD will be mainly for crew. May talk to Pizza Factory about catering meal. Made \$90 on bake sale. Member BBQ in June was a big hit.

Thanks to Vicki Epling for cleaning, repainting and

reordering the Board Room.

### Public Comments

- Thank you to Rod McClure for cleaning out East End of Diesel Shop.
- Request that we watch postings on message board and curtail some of the more "edgy" images and talk.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:55 PM and reconvened to open session at 5:15 PM. Director Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten / ITAC. No action taken.

The Board heard a report on a legal issue concerning equipment scrapping and violation of a contract. Consensus direction given, no action taken.

The Board heard a report on a legal issue concerning non-payment of rent on equipment. Consensus direction given, no action taken.

That Board heard a report on a business issue concerning rental of the facility for a business project. Consensus direction given, no action taken."

## August 2009 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Moment of Silence for Dana Greely

### Election of Officers

President

Nomination for Rod McClure – Carter / Habeck  
Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Rod McClure reelected.

Vice-President

Nomination for Steve Habeck – Carter / Brehm  
Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Steve Habeck reelected.

Secretary

Nomination for Eugene Vicknair – McClure / Habeck  
Aye – 7, Nay – 0, Abstain – 1. Eugene Vicknair reelected.

Treasurer

Nomination for Mike Coen – Vicknair / McClure  
Aye – 8, Nay – 0, Abstain – 0. Mike Coen reelected.

### Appointment of Department and Committee Heads

No changes in current slate.

### Correspondence

Reed Jackson of the UP steam crew is ill due to a non-cancerous brain tumor. The FRRS extends its best wishes to Reed and his family for a speedy recovery from his upcoming surgery.

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - approved motion 09-08-01.

- . Minutes - from the June and July 2009 BOD Meetings.
- . Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end of July 2009.

2. Business Motions

#### Motion 09-08-02

Purchase of Air Gauge Tester

Motion to table item to September agenda.  
Vicknair / Carter. Aye - 8, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 09-08-03

Dunsmuir Railroad Days 2010

Motion to participate in Dunsmuir RR Days 2010 with caveat of Union Pacific cooperation.  
Vicknair / Brehm. Aye - 9, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

#### Motion 09-08-04

International Railfair 2009

Motion to approve \$650 expenses from Line 53035 – Shows and participate in 2009 International Railfair.  
Parker / Spikes. Aye - 8, Nay - 1, Abstain - 0.  
Motion carried.

### Actions and Notices

*Doug Peterson Materials* - While the materials would be useful, it all duplicates items currently in collection and we have more pressing money needs. Consensus direction is to regretfully decline the purchase.

*Tool Issues* - Tools have been disappearing, getting damaged or being mistreated. This includes hand tools, power tools and specialized tools. This is costing us and members a lot of money. Some tools disappearing are personal tools.

We are going to start locking up the power tools and people will need to check them out. We need more attention to what is happening with the tools.

*RDC-2 Acquisition* - Consensus direction to pass on bidding for an Alaska RDC-2.

### Manager's Report

- Written report provided.
- Increase in foot traffic through the museum. We have

been seeing an increase from the Reno Area. The KOLO Staycations continues to be the main source of info for us from the Reno/Carson area.

- We were inspected by the Health Department and passed with no issues. A copy of the report is in the gift shop if anyone wants to see it.
- We received a visit from the Fire Chief for the City of Portola regarding a firebreak around the hospital. We were told that we had 2 weeks to clear a fire break 30-100' around the hospital within 2 weeks. The work will be done by a CCC crew on Thursday July 30th.
- Norm Holmes has begun an inventory program to update the items in our boxcars. The date of the last inventory was July 10, 2006.
- Bil Jackson continues to work on the Unimog and the Fire Engine. Bil has also helped on other projects.
- Terry Decottignies, Bil Jackson, Steven Welch and DeMario Smith-Baker (both new members of the organization) and 3 of Terry's personal staff from his business began work on the deck extension.
- Local fire crews will be doing clearing and abatement work around museum.

### Director's Reports

*Holmes* - Last Tuesday, Norm was invited to ride first non-ballast train on restored Virginia & Truckee.

### Department Reports

*Steam* – Written report submitted. Roger Stabler donated a new refrigerator from his family's appliance company. It is now in the Shower Car. Notice of death of Dana Greely. Spring rigging removed during steam week and Roger is getting quotes on replacement springs. Ultrasonic testing on first two boiler courses is done and looks good. Lower part of front tube sheet will be replaced and donation for new metal is being made. Tender disassembly can commence with Charlie Spikes having pumped out oil tank.

*Advertising* – Written report submitted. Billboard is up along Hwy 395. Everyone is hearing Hot August Nights radio spots advertising us. We will be talking to Reno Air Races about booth at the races. Matt Parker will be talking to resorts and casinos in Reno about more contacts with us. San Francisco Chronicle listed us as #1 railroad destination in their weekend travel section.

*Publications* – Written report submitted. Special issue 147 is in the mail.

### Committee Reports

*Member Appreciation Day* – Written report submitted.

*Portola Railroad Days* – Written report submitted. We need more volunteers for event. We have 4 speeders available this year, Dave McClain, Matt Shuman, Ron Huey, and Slim Lieby. We have 4, possibly 5, model Railroads involved this year, they are the Sacramento G

Scalers, BAZBoys (Z Scale) Reno N Trackers, and a pair of portable home layouts owned by FRRS Member Paul Martinovich. The 5th possible one is the outdoor live steam G scale. Sinbad's Hot Dogs out of Sparks, NV wants to come in and set up at the museum. In the process of finalizing that now.

### Closed Session

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 5:10 PM and reconvened to open session at 5:22 PM. Director Vicknair reported the following out of closed session:

"The Board heard a report on an on-going legal issue, FRRS v. Kasten / ITAC. No action taken.

That Board heard a report on a business issue, a proprietary car storage issue. Concensus direction given, no action taken."

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## September 2009 Board Meeting Motions and Actions Summary

### Moment of Silence for Reed Jackson

### Correspondence

On RR Days, Timber Heritage Museum inspected the ex-SP Subs. Purchased the subs from the V&T. Looking to move them by November.

### Motions Passed

1. Consent Motions - removed by motion 09-09-01.

. Financial Reports - Profit/Loss and Balance Sheet through end of August 2009.

2. Business Motions

### Motion 09-09-02

Purchase of Air Gauge Tester

Motion to remove item from agenda.

Brehm / Spikes. Aye - 7, Nay - 0, Abstain - 0.

Motion carried.

### Actions and Notices

*Santa Train 2009* - Concensus direction given to attempt fundraising from local merchants and charge gate fee.

### Manager's Report

- Written report submitted
- August gross revenue \$30,825.74.
- Had about a 2-week stretch of \$1000.00 plus days revenue in the early part of August. Foot traffic

## - FRRS Membership -

### Yearly Dues

Associate \$25.00  
 Active \$50.00  
 Family \$80.00  
 Sustaining \$150.00

**Single Life Membership** - \$1800.00

**Family Life Membership** - \$3000.00

**Institutional** - \$60.00 (annual membership for 501c(3) groups)

These are the dues for the duration of one year, with Life and Family Life being a one-time payment.  
 Five year payment plans are available for life memberships.

**Associate** memberships do not have a vote, receive The Train Sheet but not the Headlight and are for one person only.

**Active** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only.

**Family** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, have two votes and include all members of ones immediate family.

**Sustaining** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only.

**Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and Headlight, have voting rights and are for one person only for life.

**Family Life** memberships receive both The Train Sheet and the Headlight, are for a maximum of two people and have two votes (one per member) for life.

Send all applications, renewals and address changes to:

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

Address changes may also be sent to [membership@wplives.org](mailto:membership@wplives.org)

### Mission Statement

"The Feather River Rail Society is dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of the public, as to the history and people of the Western Pacific Railroad."

### Mission Goals

To preserve and interpret the history of the WP, the "Willing People" as a vital link in the development of the rail industry on the West Coast, including the steam and diesel evolution, WP's influence in the passenger tourism industry, the impact of freight competition between neighboring railroads. WP's influence in the lumber, mining and agriculture industry from Plumas County throughout California, Nevada and Utah.

quadrupled during that same period. Three reasons were identified: an article that ran in early July in the San Francisco Chronicle, our billboard on US 395 just south of Stead Blvd in Reno NV, and Hot August Nights 2008 and 2009. HAN Visitors in 2008 told us they planned this year's visits to the museum based on last year's information.

- Woods Fire once again sent a crew over and they abated the weeds along Dodgepole siding, 7 and 6 rail, and the Inside Balloon.

- Bill Jackson and Matt Parker were the driving forces behind getting the Fire Engine up and running for HAN. It is now insured and available for parades. Matt Parker and John Morehouse took it to the RR Days Parade as entry #37. We have a blue ribbon for it.

- Railroad Days: Craig Simmons, Bart Hanson, Kevin

Errcart, Cody Wilson, Seth Adams, Tim Carter, Ethan Doty, Steve Habeck, Vicki Epling, Charlie Spikes and myself all kicked in and got things going.

- Railroad Days was vastly slower than last year. Two day total of \$4,436.77 in revenue including the donation box, about 55-60% of what we did last year. 3-day total of the entire RR days event was \$6,365.36.
- International Railfair Nov 7-8 dates are incorrect, the correct date is Nov 14-15.

*September 2009 Minutes continue in next issue.*

*Any member in good standing may request a complete copy of the transcript of board meetings from the Society.*

*There is a nominal charge for each copy which covers postage and administrative costs.*

## The Train Sheet

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Portola, CA 96122-0608

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*Member Dana Greeley tackles the tube sheet inside the firebox of WP 0-6-0 165 with an angle grinder. The steam crew has been making great progress with the 165 restoration. Sadly, this would be Dana's last work session as he passed away unexpectedly in late July.*

*-photos by Chris Allan*