



# The Willow Creek Gazette

## Inside this issue:

The Junior Program 2

WCRR Library 2

Invitational Meet 3

Memorial Garden 3

People Mover 3

Track One 4

Check them Out 4

On Going Projects 5

The Back Shop, The Cottonwood comes Down 6

### INVITATIONAL MEET

WCRR to Host SVLS  
July 9, 10, 11, 2010  
Willow Creek Railroad  
Brooks, Oregon

### NOTICE

Annual General Meeting:  
September 4, 2010  
1:00 PM  
Willow Creek Railroad  
Brooks, Oregon

## Willow Creek Railroad

Spring 2010

### Annual Meeting, 2009

The 2009 Annual meeting was held on September 5. Due to rainy weather, the meeting took place in the APMA board room, and it was well attended. The normal review of the year took place including the financial information and Steam-Up.

Here are some of the other highlights ....

Mark Adelblue and Scott Johnson were re-elected to a three year term on the board.

The first three lifetime memberships were announced and presented to the

following members: Garry Johnson, Jack Chapman, and Roy Anderson.

The current bylaws are twelve years old and outdated due to the growth of the organization, so revised bylaws which the board had spent the last year working on were presented, discussed, and voted in to effect.

A new long term lease with APMA/WAPI including some additional land and the ICP building is being finalized.

The current and future pro-

jects were discussed including the new station cover, memorial garden, track work, additional storage, and the Roundhouse remodel to name a few.

After the meeting a free hotdog lunch was provided under the new station cover so everyone could see the new upgrades that were completed since the Steam-Up.

A copy of the meeting minutes and new bylaws will be on file in the ICP if anyone wants to look at them.



## What have the Juniors been up To *By Ernie Hellman and Mike Baker*

It was another active year for the WCRR Junior Program. We had a wet and wild trip to Great Wolf Lodge, parents and kids had a exceptionally good time laying on the beach and surfing the waves and shooting the Tornado water slide.

If any of the membership ever have the chance to go to Great Wolf Lodge you will have a great experience. Be sure to check out the videos on line, that Ernie and Bryson Hellman have posted. Go to the WCRR Junior page, scroll to the bot-

tom, and click the link.

Our second trip was a three hour tour of the Oregon National Guard's Military Museum in Clackamas Oregon. We received a personal, tour led by Chief Robert Ryan. The museum is in transition to it's new building at Clackamas, we were very fortunate to be able to crawl all over the antique equipment, which we could have not done if they were in their new home. After seeing the historical equipment we were shown all of the current equipment in ser-

vice with the Army, we saw all of the maintenance shops and the new up armored Hum-V's. We were also shown a Korean War vintage tank and were allowed to get inside.

Steve Greenburg, of the Antique Military Vehicles Club, gave us a great demonstration of speed and agility of his WW2 Tank. This is the same tank that has been in the parades at Steam-Up. Chief Ryan showed us some of the vehicles he is planning to bring to Steam-Up this year. This trip is also on YouTube courtesy of Ernie and Bryson.

In the coming spring, we hope to maybe visit the WW2 Navy Landing Ship Tank, which is docked in the Columbia River, at Jantzen Beach stay tuned.



## WCRR Library *By Sandy Folk*

As you may have noticed, the club now has a working library located inside the ICP. I am Sandy Folk, and I am the club librarian. Assisting me are Sara Heaney and Rachel Lertora. Already we have several hundred volumes of magazines, books and videos that are currently being be catalogued and organized for the use by Willow Creek members.

The materials are available for checkout through the honor system. A checkout log is located on the library shelving in the ICP. Please limit checkouts to no more than five items at any one time. When you return items, please mark off the selections in the log next to your name and place them in the return box.

You are welcome to browse through the library when the ICP is open. Unless you are checking items out, please keep them in the ICP. When you are finished looking, please return the items to the place in the library where you found them. Paint sticks will be provided for you to mark where each item was located, so you can easily place them back in the right spot.

We are always looking for more donations of material for the library, primarily railroad-related. We are also in need of organizational items such as magazine holders (banker boxes). If you are interested in making a donation, please contact me first to ensure that it will be beneficial to the library. All donations will be considered "non-restrictive". There are also some duplicate items located in a separate area which are for sale.

Remember, the library is here for your use and we hope that you will enjoy it!

Sandy Folk (sandraf399@aol.com)

Editors Note -----ICP is the green club building located right next to our northside tracks.



## WCRR to hold first Invitational Train Meet in July

For several years there has been discussion about holding a "train meet" at the park. It was decided to give it a try this summer, and make it invitational only for the first one so we could get our feet wet. Discussion started with our friends from Sacramento Valley Live Steamers in California. They host two meets a year at their track, and for the past 5 years some of our members have attended, including a large number of members this past fall. They accepted our invitation and look forward to coming to visit our Rail-

road. The dates we were able to work out are July 9, 10, and 11. So mark your calendars, this is two weeks before the Steam-Up and is also the weekend the International Truck and Tractor show is taking place on the grounds. This will give them a chance to see some of the other Museums operating onsite, and also haul some passengers, if they wish. There will be some things to do in addition to our normal pre Steam-Up work load to get ready, so everything looks nice and runs smooth.

WCRR is going to roll out the red carpet and show our friends a great time! This will be a fun event, but we will need your help. Please be watching for future e-mails regarding the meet. Updates will also be posted on the white board in the ICP. A special thanks to Mike Baker and Mark Adelblue for heading up this event.

Also if you would like to attend Sacramento's Spring meet please note the date change this year, May 1 and 2, 2010. For more information go to [www.svls.org](http://www.svls.org)

## Memorial Garden Update

Last Fall Ernie finished the first brick wall in the Memorial Garden. The grading and bubbler pond where also completed, along with the planting of a new maple tree to replace the Hawthorne. He has continued to work from home over the winter pouring the rest of the posts, and caps. They just recently were installed at the park. He also has

started pouring the remaining footings for the side and front brick walls. This is going to be a great addition where all fellow members can be remembered.

Thank you to everyone that has made a donation. If you would like to make a donation towards this project they are still being accepted.



## People Mover

Recently, Willow Creek Railroad was asked to restore one of the "People Movers". The People Mover is used to shuttle Powerland visitors during Steam-Up. With the leadership of Mike Baker, this task was quickly accomplished. Mike had the help of his crew; Julie and Tosh Baker, Jenny and Roy Bennett, and Ernie Hellman. Just take a look at the picture, it looks great.



## Track One *By President Mark Adelblue*

I know it has been a while since the last news letter, but I think that most have been made aware of the goings on from Scott's updates that he sends out periodically regarding work days as well as bookings for parties and activities on the grounds. I think that he does a really good job of trying to keep all of us informed of what is happening as he has an "inside track" with WAPI and APMA and lets all of us know that as he can.

Now I know that many of you have wondered about the direction of the club since Garry stepped down from the upper echelons of WCRR. I am here to say that there will not be any major changes in the way that the organization is or will be run in the near future. The board and I are doing everything we can to keep matters going in the right direction. That is the reasoning behind why we decided to work, for over a year, on making the changes to the bylaws – to keep things moving forward. But with that, we also don't want things to move too fast going forward – the board is very active in trying to keep the forward march steady. I know that I have heard from members that have belonged to other clubs that think we should be actively recruiting new members. I can see that side of the coin, but you also have to look at the other side of the coin – if we recruit, is that bringing in the members that Willow Creek really wants? I think that the way we are currently receiving new members is a better way of growing – those people

interested come to us requesting information, and the ball is always in their court as far as joining – they really need to *want to be a member of Willow Creek* to keep coming back – look at the caliber of members we have now – many if not all are dedicated members wanting to do things and make WCRR keep moving in that forward direction. In that forward direction we have the opportunity to keep the organization a top notch place to belong – with that, we also want to portray that to others outside of WCRR that are also in the hobby. We have several friends that visit on a regular basis that are from other clubs – many are located farther than most of us realize. Take the folks from Vancouver Island – we get to see them a couple times a year and always enjoy their company. Well this year we have the opportunity to make some new friends. We will be hosting the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers for the first ever official invitational at Willow Creek. You can read more about that in another section of the news letter. We want to make sure that we put our best foot forward for these folks – we are not known as the best kept secret in the Willamette Valley for nothing! Now I know with all of the excitement of this great possibility comes the issue with projects going south on us very quickly if communications are not maintained. We had some issues last year with booking dates at the club without checking with the correct people. The best thing I can think of is to use both Scott and I as a clearing house for infor-

mation. The both of us have a long history with Willow Creek and we want that history to keep moving forward in a positive way. If you have a question about the use of the railroad for a function, or you are working on a project, check with either Scott or I before assuming that something is ok to move forward. We both talk on a regular basis and if we don't know an answer for your question, we probably know where we can get you that answer. We were elected as board members and then appointed to President and Vice President for a reason – or at least I hope that is the case... You have to realize that the board and your officers work with all available information before a decision is made and we have the last word on those decisions.

Now I don't want you to think that we are dictators in any of this, as we are not. We need to keep in mind that we are trying to make informed decisions with the *entire* organization's welfare in mind. It has taken a very long time to get where we are at now with the relationships between our members, the board, as well as all of the other organizations on the Powerland grounds. We don't want to jeopardize any of that with a hasty decision. None of the decisions are taken lightly – it can be a very difficult job.

Let's all stay positive as we move forward to make this year as enjoyable as possible – and to steal a saying... "Without you there is no us" – keep that in mind as we work toward another great year – even better than in the past!

Happy Steaming...

### Check them Out—WCRR Pins!

Look here, we now have Willow Creek Railroad pins. Hot out of the factory and for sale now.

The pins measure 3/4"x1" and sell for \$5.00 each. The pins are for sale at the railroad.



## Ongoing Projects *By Frank Lertora*

Things have been happening at the railroad and also behind the scenes. We have several projects being juggled at one time, hopefully I do not leave any out.

**Station Cover**—The finishing touches are being made. Dick Hofsheier has designed the ridge detail and will be having it cut out by water-jet, powder coated, and then installed.

Phil Lanzarotta who did all the welding last Fall on the "Rail" fence in the station built 2 gates this winter for the entry and exit of passengers. He brought them to the park at the end of March and along with the help of Matt Cowart spent a full day installing them. They look nice and work really good. There are a few minor things that need to be done, including some concrete work. These are a huge upgrade compared to a piece of rope!

**New Truck Trailer/Storage**—WCRR acquired a semi truck trailer. The old container, near the lift, was moved to the north, and the new trailer was positioned in the location adjacent to the fence. It has had the wheels removed

and is now set at the elevation we are familiar with. The new container will be receiving tracks for railroad equipment storage and a coat or two of Pullman green paint.

**Memorial Garden**—Just look at page 3, Ernie has been hard at work.

**Roundhouse**—I know last year there was a lot of talk about the roundhouse project starting last fall. Well, the reality is the plans have changed. The project has not taken off in the construction phase, but there are designs and costs being calculated. With good planning up front, the construction should proceed smoothly. Tarno Coleman is working on the design of the new roundhouse.

Currently the plan is to construct an entirely new roundhouse, from the ground up. The new roundhouse will be located east of the existing roundhouse. The existing roundhouse will remain until the new one has been completed.

After the designs are completed we will enter the fund raising phase; grants, donations, etc. So if any of you are experienced in writing grants WCRR needs

your help.

**Track work**—Plans are to cut in some additional sidings west of the Memorial Garden. Continue to replace the wooden ties with Trex ties.

There are eleven switches under construction at this time. The switches are for the sidings and the new track work associated with the roundhouse project. Once the sidings are in place, there will be additional signals installed.

Above is just a list of our big projects, as always there is the constant work of mowing lawns, landscaping, track maintenance, low-voltage/signal design and maintenance, and general clean-up.

If you look, I am sure you will see other projects that have been taking place.





## "The Back Shop"

### Cottonwood comes Down

As you may have heard over a couple of weekends in mid April, we were able to finally schedule to get the cottonwood cut down. NO MORE COTTON BLOWING IN THE WIND! It really opens up the area. It was amazing to watch the arborist work on climbing the tree, just like a little monkey. Everyone that was here has a great show watching him climb from limb to limb to make sure that nothing fell onto anything.

Not to shock you completely, he also very strongly suggested removing the three maples in front of the station area. Wow what a difference. He stated that the way that the trees were allowed to grow, the crooks in the trees greatly weakened the structural integrity of each of them – he was really surprised that they did not come down in the ice

storm we were hit with last year, or were greatly damaged. They were a major liability and put our new station in danger of damage from falling limbs.

This allows us to complete our vision of a period cover. We have come into possession of two period looking light poles that will be installed in front of the station to give a warm light during the evening hours. We have also had new entry and exit gates installed, making the area look more substantial and secure. We are also working on the entrance and exit as well as working on the waiting area for the entrance – pavers will be placed between the entrance and exit gates around the semaphore, allowing people to get right up and close to the action.

We will also be working on getting the semaphore lit – and

possibly working so that when trains enter the station we will see movement as well as changing aspect colors. We will be locating the wig-wag somewhere between the station and the ICP. Plans are also in motion to plant substantial new trees out in front of the station where we want them to be so that they don't interfere with our operations, our artifacts or the vision. New plantings will be going within the existing planting beds around the water tower. We are also very actively working on getting the water columns finished and installed so that steamers can be filled on any of the station tracks...

We are moving forward.



Cowart family Jack-o-Lanterns, from the Heiser Pumpkin Patch, during the Junior trip last fall.



New lift for Lertora Car Works.

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