

*Cal Poly
Swanton-Pacific
Railroad Society*

September 20, 1994

Summer is over, the kids are back in school and the Swanton Pacific Railroad is rapidly moving forward. This has been a very active and productive summer for us and it looks like the month of October is no exception.

The first Sunday (October 2) is the annual Land Trust Day which will be one of the largest gatherings of people that we have each year. We will need help on Saturday to get the train ready and then again on Sunday to help run the train and help with other tasks. If you have some time we could use some extra help this weekend.

The next weekend the SPRS will be having it's monthly work day at Swanton Ranch on **Saturday, October 8, 1994**. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet **Wednesday, October 5**, at 6:00 p. m. in Lab #7 at Cal Poly.

The third weekend (October 15-16) we will host a group of Cal Poly retirees on Saturday and then the next day, Sunday, the 2472 group will be here for their annual picnic. This is another weekend we could use some extra help.

Our workday in September was a very eventful one. Quite a few tasks were completed. The day started with the arrival of the newly built "VIP" car. This is the car that was built at Cal Poly and has the three axle trucks under it. The interior of this car is what's special. All of the seats are made out of mahogany as is the custom made cabinet for those special supplies. A great deal of time was spent on building this car with most of the work being done by Ed Carnegie. All of the fancy woodwork on the inside along with the painting and stencil work was done by Ed. So a big thank-you to Ed Carnegie for seeing this job through. After the car was placed on the turntable people started to analyze various parts of the car. It was immediately determined that all of the bearings were placed in backwards. So a good part of the day was spent by a crew to remove the trucks from the car and then reverse all of the bearings. Also since we are trying to provide air brakes to all of the rolling stock a crew made up air hoses that would connect all of the passenger cars. Hoses were also made up to connect the tender to the 1914 locomotive.

Another crew went to work in the roundhouse working on the engines. The pilot trucks and the trailing trucks were re-installed under the 1914 and the tender was reattached. On the 1912, studs on the steam dome were replaced, boiler plugs reinstalled, the boiler was filled with water and then a fire was lit in the fire box to build up steam pressure. Both engines should be running for the Land Trust Day.

While all of this maintenance was going on, another group was busy gathering excess trash that has accumulated around the area. It was all hauled off to a garbage collection site. A few barrels of waste oil were left but arrangements have been made to have them picked up.

A few months back it was mentioned that we had received one of the existing box cars that originally came from the Overfair Railway. This car has been outside on the property since we received it. It has now been moved inside the car barn where it will be stored until we have time to make it another project.

Probably the busiest crew this weekend was the track crew. In the last newsletter I mentioned that the track down by the wye was repaired. That was partially correct. At the August meeting the area was repaired but the track still had to be replaced. So this month the track crew was busy putting the track back in place. By the end of the day the job was still not done. The ballast and tracks still have to be put in place and then the track has to be leveled. All of this will be completed by the first week of October since crews will go back each weekend to finish the job.

A master plan for the entire Swanton Pacific Railroad has been started which means that we are looking at what project to start first and in what priority all of the rest of the jobs should be completed in. This also means how much money should be spent. If you have ideas for various projects that you would like to see completed contact one of the board members.

I do hope that we will see you one of the weekends in October.