

*Cal Poly
Swanton-Pacific
Railroad Society*

November 1, 1994

Wow, It's been busy at Swanton these past few weeks. We hope that you were involved in some way or another so you were not left out in the action. Since our last newsletter, groups of people have been working on some part of the railroad every weekend of the month. I think the last weekend of October was the first quiet time for many weeks.

The first big push was to have everything ready for the Land Trust Day which was held during the first Sunday of October. A lot of people spent their valuable weekends helping get everything ready. Two crews worked extra hard. One crew led by Randy Jones, got both locomotives and the diesel engine up and running. We hear that a lot of long hours were spent in the round house working among the soot and grease. Everything worked great the day of operation, The track crew, led by Elmer Stone, was also busy every weekend getting the track back in shape. They finished everything down by the wye the Saturday before the Land Trust Day. THANKS !! to everyone who worked so hard and put in that extra time.

The Land Trust day was a big success as far as the railroad goes. Both locomotives were in full operation pulling every available passenger car that we had. We even had a chance to sell some of our t-shirts & hats. Did you know that green sweatshirts are now available by special order? Everything ran real smooth thanks to all of the hard work that was done on the previous weekends.

The following weekend was our normal workday. Again a good number of people were in attendance. It was decided that two lengths of track down by the wye should be changed out so the track crew worked on and finished that project. Weeds were sprayed and the track was also cleaned of leaves. The locomotive has always needed attention (and still does). The fuel tanks were pulled and cleaned out, removing a lot of grim. Now we know why the fuel filters were always dirty. A new location for ballast storage was graded out. Next a permanent base of blacktop or concrete has to be made along with the construction of the walls. The engine crew fine tuned the locomotives for the next weekend of operation, along with a crew checking out the passenger cars. We now have four cars in operation with working air brakes. A maintenance schedule has been developed for the cars so it looks like this will be an ongoing project.

The third weekend was the 2472 picnic. Both locomotives and the diesel were in operation. I wasn't there but I hear everything went smooth without any major problems. Maybe one of these days instead of working, we can spend a day visiting where the 2472 is being stored. Would you be interested? We also plan on visiting the Billy Jones railroad in Los Gatos soon. Any interest in meeting at the railroad museum in Sacramento?

In fact what are your ideas and goals for the railroad? 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. Sunday, Nov. 13, the Board of Directors along with the Advisory Committee will sit down and plan out short & long term goals for the SPRS. Do you have any ideas what you would like to see done. Do we spend our time on what we have now or do we put more effort into the north loop? What about more maintenance or operator training? What about the barbecue area? Do we upgrade the roundhouse? What about the car barn & the machine shop? Are you getting what you expect for your dues? Let us know if you have any ideas. If you would like to call ahead of time, call me and I'll relay your concerns.

We also wanted to remind you that the SPRS will be having it's monthly workday at Swanton Ranch on Saturday, November 12, 1994. A group of Cal Poly Retirees will be with us on Saturday, so we will have a barbecue for them and anyone who works that day. We also will need some help putting on this barbecue. So if you would like to help cook tri-tip, prepare beans or even help set up, we could use your help. In fact we need to set up a barbecue committee. Interested? Some of us will also be staying over for the Sunday meeting. If you feel like you would like to stay over and work on some project Sunday this is the weekend. For those members who are in the San Luis Obispo area, we will also meet Wednesday, November 9 at 6:00 p. m. in Lab #7 at Cal Poly.

This newsletter is being written with one persons opinion, mine. If you would like to add your thoughts or you have some information please feel free to contact me. I could always use some good stories. In fact I welcome them. Contact, Jim Matheny,

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If you have any bills, complaints, personal problems or bad news, contact Ed Carnegie at the above address. I only want the good stuff.