

Snowshed

June 2009

Volume 2, Number 2



News Flash!

- Town approves
Railyard Master
Plan
- Building Department
"Green Lights"
Caboose Project
- Economy Limits
Grant Dollars, we
need your help!

Inside

Our 10-6 sleeper car	2
The joy of "Chasing Grade"	3
2009 trestle tour announced	3

Caboose project on track

Caboose Progress

Since our last report we have made considerable progress toward creating a museum in the caboose. One of our main goals for this project was to learn what is involved in creating a museum. Boy, are we succeeding.

On the approval front, we have learned there is a long path between an OK from the Town Council and being actually approved for construction. After struggling through the design process, we have submitted plans for the remodel effort, parking lot installation, ADA access ramp and platform to the Building Department for approval. We are now responding to their questions and comments. We expect the building permit soon.

Preliminary work on the caboose has begun. Tom Hobday has repaired sheet rock and covered several windows that will be hidden by exhibits. Tom and Jim Hood have done the demolition work making room for the roomette. Al Steunenberg, and Don Davis are making doors. Among the "in kind" contributions we've received from the community, Daryl Faiferek, of Donner Pass Truck and Tractor, has straightened the bent structure on the aft platform and removed some superfluous structure. Justin Fiddymnt, of Northern Forge is fabricating two grab bars to replace those missing and Mark Tanner Construction will provide a professional finisher for the walls. Placer Electric is donating the electrical work. Of course it's exhibits that make a mu-

Presidents Report

The news continues to be good, as our Caboose Museum / Exhibit has completed the Town approval process and the Building Permit process is about complete. Members are busy working on the cabinets and exhibit displays. Our continued gratitude goes out to at least a dozen of our members and many community members for all their hard work.

We applied to several local non-profit foundations and community organizations to fund the completion of the Caboose Museum / Exhibit. The good news is we were successful in obtaining a \$4,000 matching grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation. We now have to raise a matching \$4,000. We apparently were one of only a few non-social organizations to receive a grant, as most of the local community foundations felt the need to provide greater support to social organizations and programs. However, they also feel that our efforts need to be supported and will help in the long term for the Truckee community. So far members Steve and Marilyn Disbrow have stepped up and made a significant contribution and encourage others to make contributions. I now appeal to our membership to help with this matching fund requirement and ask that you help in any amount you can. If each of our members came up with \$50, \$100, or more, we could make the goal. Of course, not all our members can do this, so please consider the value of our mission and help out as much as you can. Most likely there will be several items in our museum budget that will have to be delayed regardless, but we are confident that once the museum is

*Get your ducks
Thank You
Bob Reed*

open we will obtain more donations and sales to complete the museum to the final plan.

As I reported in the last newsletter, we now have hundreds of railroad books to sell. So far we have sold about \$800 worth of books. Another way to help with our operations is to check out our website and buy a Railroad book for yourself or to give as a gift. The list is on the website and all proceeds go to our operating budget.

The Town approved the master plan for the new Railyard development in June. We have been in close communication with the developer and he is a very supportive of our efforts to establish a "first class" museum in the future

and has committed significant support once the development master plan is approved. He has agreed to remove and store materials from the existing Union Pacific warehouse building for our use in construction of our future museum, and he will include an interchange design for a museum in the new Union Pacific balloon track to be constructed.

Even in these tough economic times our efforts will move forward and any donations of time or funds on our various projects will be appreciated.

Bob Bell, President

Truckee Museum-Blunt End 10-6 Sleeping Car

Blunt-end 10 roomette, 6 double bedroom SP 9053 was built by Pullman Standard under lot 6874 and delivered to Southern Pacific on July 21, 1950. It and sister car SP 9054 were built under plan 4140D for the new streamlined *Cascade*. As delivered this car was painted in SP's two-tone-gray scheme and featured a square etched glass tail sign for the Oakland California to Portland Oregon *Cascade*. Being the last car in the consist, it also featured an oscillating Mars light, fixed marker lights, and streamlined side-mounted marker lights.

During its service career, the car eventually lost its tail sign to a neon replacement. Following in 1963 with the era of the streamliners coming to a close, SP 9053 was taken off of the *Cascade* pool and transferred to interchange service. The car would emerge in 1963 in Armour Yellow and Harbor Mist Gray for service over the Overland Route connecting with the Union Pacific at Ogden Utah. The car retained its number, but would lose the rear light package to a diaphragm that was installed on the blunt-end so the car could be used anywhere in the train.

SP 9053 was retired on March 27, 1969 from Pullman lease and was part of the California State Railroad Museum and Golden Gate Railroad Museum's collection before coming to its new home.



Caboose progress continued

seum. Progress is being made here as well. Michael Holley has completed the display case allowing Ron Mason to begin the diorama for the Logging Exhibit. Ron has also started elements of the Tourist Railroad exhibit. Jim Hood has disassembled and removed a roomette from the sleeper and is refurbishing the components for installation in the sleeper display. Bob Bell, Steve Disbrow and Ed Hunt (who came down from Seattle), built the simulated snow shed for the "Fighting the Snow" exhibit. Keith Pattison has gathered the material for several ex-

hibits and is making labels. Finally Al Steunenberg, is making two full sized wheels for the Hobart Rails display.

If you wish to participate, many opportunities remain. You shouldn't let us have all the fun. Contact Don (ddavis@tcol.com) or Keith (keithpattison@surewest.net). Look for an E-mail notice of a paint party or two.

Don Davis

2009 Trestle Tour

Nelson VanGundy

This year's tour will visit logging railroad trestles and roadbeds north of Truckee of the Truckee Lumber Co., Crown Wilamette Paper Co., Hobart Estates [AKA The Sierra Nevada Wood & Lumber Co.], Boca & Loyalton Ry. [later Clover Valley Lumber Co.], and Verdi Lumber Co, time, weather, and attitudes permitting.

When: Saturday, August 1, beginning at 10:00 AM.

Where: Meet @ Truckee Chamber of Commerce [the old depot]

Recommended Preparation:

1. Secure a current copy of the USFS's TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST MAP.
2. Suggested Reading: David W. Myrick's Railroads of Nevada and Eastern California, Volume I [available in good bookstores, and in the Truckee Library], pages 416-453, "Logging Railroads---Lake Tahoe and Truckee River Basin", additionally pages 398-409 "BOCA AND LOYALTON RAILROAD", and pages 410-415, "VERDI LUMBER COMPANY". This will help you prepare for the Tour [and the test].

This is a backwoods adventure, so come dressed comfortably and prepared for an expedition. We will hike a couple of miles [broken into smaller segments], and the trip will involve travel on 40-50 miles of paved highway, USFS system roads, some rather doubtful 4-wheel-drive trails, and old railroad roadbeds. Please bring whatever food and drink you'd like to have. Cameras are recommended.

For Truckee Donner Railroad Society members the tour is free. For nonmembers, donations are encouraged but not required. All proceeds collected go toward the development of the Truckee Railroad Museum....AKA the Caboose!

Nelson VanGundy: cell 530-386-0638; home office 530-587-1165.

Chasing Grade

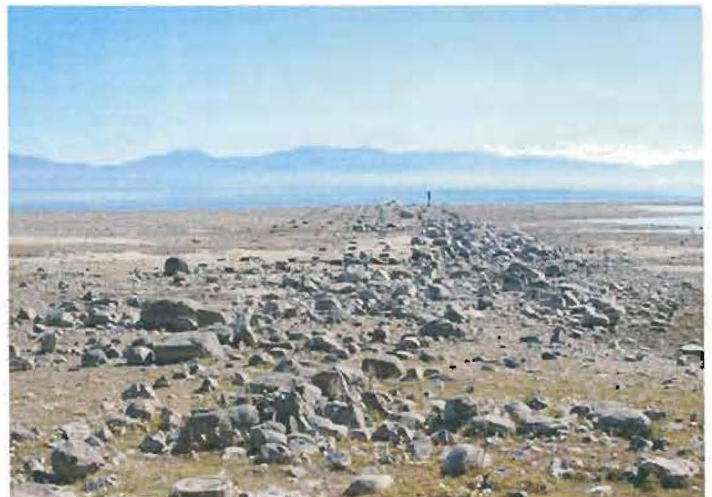
Keith Pattison

One of the many advantages of living in or visiting Truckee is the abundance of old railroad roadbed (or grade), trestles and artifacts remaining in the area. Finding these is like a modern day treasure hunt. Some members of the TDRS have been chasing grade for most of their lives. Gordon Richards of the Truckee Donner Historical Society has allowed TDRS to use his research on railroad grades. It consists of a topographical map system with hundreds of miles of old logging, tourist and mainline railroads marked on it. What a tremendous body of work this is and we thank Gordon. So what are some of the recent "finds"? Most recently, two five legged switchbacks of Verdi Lumber used to harvest lumber from the top of a mountain that couldn't otherwise be reached (See picture at left bellow). Before that was locating the remnants of the 983 foot pier at the Tahoe City terminus of the Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Company in Lake Tahoe. (Picture on right) The trains would take tourists from Truckee to Tahoe, and then by steamboat to other points on the lake. One way to take advantage of this chasing, is to take one of the TDRS Trestle Tours. See Nelson's article above for this year's adventure!

Picture was taken at site of switch, left side descending and right side ascending.



Pier footings marching into Lake Tahoe.



Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission

Board of Directors:

- Bob Bell—President
Jim Hood—Vice President
Don Davis—Secretary
Nelson Van Gundy—
Treasurer and Historian
Sandy Coots
Steve Disbrow
Dean Dvoracek
Rick McConn
Frank Ross
Dale Fowlar

The mission of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society is to perpetuate the study and advancement of knowledge of working railroads in the Truckee Donner area with the goal of building a railroad museum to preserve and share what we have learned.

Truckee Railroad Museum Vision

Keeping Truckee railroads alive!

Railroads of the Truckee area played a significant role in founding and developing the town of Truckee. From blasting black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to hissing of the first steam coming to town, to lumberjack whistles in the mountains, to ice cracking as it loads in reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, The Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

- ◆ A place to Learn
- ◆ A place to Interact
- ◆ A place to Enjoy

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

Current Projects Seeking Support

- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Switcher Operational repair

If you are able to support any of these projects with your time, talent or dollars, please contact us.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

RECEIVED

027 JUN 2009 11:11

