

Snowshed

September, 2013

Volume 6 Number 3

Museum Status

Don Davis

Wow! What happened to summer? It seems like just yesterday I was putting the June column together.

Despite forest fires nearly smoking us out and some other distractions, we made it through. We missed being open a few times for lack of docents, but overall we had a successful summer. Many thanks to Steve Disbrow who found time to give the deck another coat of much needed paint.

Progress of the logging display project team (Ed Larson & Don Davis) slowed a bit due to family vacations and other activities requiring volunteer time. The audio capability is up and running. Several days of operating experience has taught us that we need to simplify and shorten the narration. The new cap containing the control electronics and spot lights pointing to features as they are being described is 80% complete. I expect it be installed and the display working with a revised narration by the time you read this.

Interactive capability, allowing the visitor to probe deeper into topics of specific interest, is the next feature planned. It requires a larger control

panel but has no significant technical issues to solve. Like the cap, this element can be constructed off line and installed during the week so that museum operations are not affected. The following step, adding the G scale Shay will require some significant cabinet modifications and more electronic control circuitry. With luck we'll be able to divide this effort into small enough segments and continue to avoid interrupting museum operations.

If you would like to be part of these fun and games, or perhaps help keep the museum open by volunteering as a docent, please drop me an e-mail ddavis@tcol.com.



- ◆ Trestle tours growing in popularity
- ◆ Annual meeting well attended
- ◆ Society looks forward to next step in museum
- ◆ Many attend Truckee History Day

Inside

President's Letter	2
Next Trestle Tour announced	2
Truckee History Day August 10th	3

Trestle Tours A Popular Success

Nelson Van Gundy

We've had two Trestle Tours, with over 30 participants touring the Truckee RR Museum, Hobart Mills, the trestles still extant on the old Hobart Estates main line, the location of the Little Truckee trestle, the steam donkey landing near Sierraville Summit, the Verdi Lumber line

up Sardine Saddle, the Boca and Loyalton trestle above Sardine Meadow, Camp 21 [later called Camp Merrill] where three railroads crossed, and finished up following the B&L along the Little Truckee River to Boca, where we saw the switchback that connected the B&L and the SP. Several new members and docents resulted from these two tours!

On October 6 we will join the Incline Village Historical Society to visit locations on the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Co. operation [predecessor to the Hobart Estates], and then down to the D.L. Bliss operation which ran from Glenbrook to Spooner Summit, where the flume carried finished lumber to Carson City for reloading onto the V&T for destinations in the Comstock Lode. Check the website for further information! <http://www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com/>



Society Historian, Nelson Van Gundy, leads a tour to the site of a long abandoned flat car frame at Hobart Mills.

President's Report

Jim Hood

The Annual Meeting of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society was held on August 24th at the home of Carey and Jim Hood. There was plenty of time for socializing with other members and guests, and all present enjoyed a pot luck dinner. There was a short business meeting where the past year of the major activities on the Truckee Donner Railroad Society were reviewed. Major items that were discussed were: continued operation and ongoing improvements of the Current Museum in Downtown Truckee, The extremely generous contributions we have received from the Brewster West Foundation, the progress toward the next "interim" adaptation of the Railroad Museum and our community involvement activities over the last year. All present seemed to have a very enjoyable evening and we encourage all members to attend in the future.

We continue to be pleased with the number

of guests we have at the museum especially considering that we are only open on the weekends, major holidays and most Truckee Thursdays. The number of hours we can be open is limited to the number of Docents we can attract and we greatly appreciate those who give their time and energy so we can continue to operate.

I announced the most recent contribution from the Brewster West Foundation in the last news letter. Their ongoing support has allowed us to continue to upgrade the displays in the Museum and keep it "fresh" for our guests. It remains our goal to develop an expanded Railroad Museum in the downtown area of Truckee. We envision that this would be an "interim" museum that would permit us to chronicle even more of the History of the Railroad in the greater Truckee area. This museum will incorporate "modern" Museum technology and present the History in an in-

teractive and exciting manner. As soon as we can tie down a location, we will start working with architects and exhibit designers to develop a detailed concept of the interim Museum. We will start fund raising for the project which we expect to be in the \$1.0 million range.

I am starting my fourth year as the President of your Tahoe Donner Railroad Society and I would appreciate any comments that you would like to send me at jim.hood7914@att.net so

that I can serve you better. I would hope that my tenure as your President will culminate in the opening of the "interim" Museum.



Truckee History Day

Jerry Blackwill

The Truckee Donner Historical and the Truckee Donner Railroad Societies staged Truckee History Day on August 10th as a part of Truckee's 20 – 150 year anniversary celebration. Bob Bell and Dale Fowler arranged to have the Sacramento Valley Live Steamers bring model steam and diesel locomotives to the Truckee Regional Park. Nelson Van Gundy and Tom Smith helped lay the track and set up the trains that permitted over 150 children and adults to enjoy train rides around the park. In addition, several presentations were given in the Historical Society's tent. Tom Macaulay described Truckee's ice industry to Richard and Delores Orsi. Bill George also showed a video on the transcontinental railroad and Jerry Blackwill gave a talk on the Truckee to Tahoe City railroad.

Thanks to Barbara Czerwinski for coordinating the efforts of Truckee's Railroad and Historical Societies.



Train Activities at Truckee History Day

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about rail-roading life and history in the Truckee region including its contribution to Truckee and the Nation. Specifically, depict railroad involvement in local industry through the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of relevant equipment, documents, and artifacts all to be part of a permanent museum facility in downtown Truckee.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
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www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

Board of Directors:

Jim Hood—President

Bob Bell—Executive Vice
President/Treasurer

Don Davis—Vice Presi-
dent, Museum Operations

Jerry Blackwill—Vice Presi-
dent, Strategic Planning

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy —
Historian

Barbara Czerwinski

Steve Disbrow

Chip Huck

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 the blasting of black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to the hissing of the first steam coming into town, to whistles of lumberjacks in the mountains, to the crack of ice being loaded in the reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, the Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

- ◆ A place to Discover
- ◆ A place to Interact
- ◆ A place to Enjoy

Current Projects Seeking Support

- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Internet Book Sales

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

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