

# Snowshed

December, 2013

Volume 6 Number 4

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



- ♦ Society to Develop Plans for Next Step in Museum Development
- ♦ Call for Member Involvement in Society Activities
- ♦ Museum Attendance Remains Strong
- ♦ Call for Docents Continues

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UP to Restore Big Boy Steam Locomotive

Why not make a New Years resolution to spend more time with your Railroad Society, opportunities abound! Work to preserve our equipment, become a museum docent, participate in the planning for our next-step museum, help catalogue our artifacts, join the drive for new members, fundraising (always fun and necessary)! The opportunities are endless. Contact any board member if you would like to get more involved, you will have fun and work with some fine folks!

### Presidents Letter

#### Jim Hood

The Tahoe Donner Railroad Society has had another good year in 2013. The visitation at our Museum has continued to be excellent and I want to personally thank Don Davis for all of his hard work in keeping the Museum running. I also want to thank all of the Docents who give generously of their time so that we can continue to have our doors open.

The Brewster West Foundation made a very generous endowment to the Museum in 2013. They are by far our largest contributor. We have used their contributions to continue to upgrade our Museum and keep the exhibits "fresh" for visitors. We are planning to incorporate some new "museum technology" in these improvements which we believe will make the Museum an even better and more interactive experience for our visitors.

In 2014 we will focus our efforts in two major areas. First we will have a significant Membership Drive to expand our membership and to engage more of our members in the activities of the Railroad Society. Second we will focus our efforts toward finding a location for a larger Museum. We hope that during 2014 we can tie down a location and start the exciting work of designing how we will utilize that space. If we are successful in finding a suitable location, we will also start planning a Capital Campaign to configure the space and contract for "professional" exhibits that are tailored to our objective of preserving the rich Railroad History of our area.

I want to thank all of our members and friends for their support throughout the year and to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

## Have fun and Help the Railroad Society Grow

→ Bonnie?

The Railroad Society needs a Membership Development Manager dedicated to communicating, interacting, and growing our membership. The manager's goal would be to attract more members, retain our annual renewal members and encourage member participation in our various projects. The manager would help plan social events, attend community events to promote the society, build and encourage our volunteer base and highlight the benefits of membership to the public.

We are looking for someone who enjoys meeting people. You'll work with our membership team to develop growth plans.

## Museum Report

### Don Davis

Adding interactive capability to the logging display continues although at a slower rate than I would like. The introductory sequence, providing an introduction to area logging is now up and running. In response to the start button, a recorded narration plays while spotlighting various features as they are discussed. Adding capability for expanded discussions of topics selected is the next step. We have begun the packaging, electrical and software design for this step and hope to have it up and running by spring.

On the down side, finding sufficient volunteers to keep the museum open continues to be an increasingly difficult problem. We were closed for ten shifts this quarter despite the efforts of a few stalwarts working multiple shifts. We need to add new names to the pool; give it a try, you will be surprised at how enjoyable it will be.

I think there are several misconceptions inhibiting members from volunteering. Perhaps the largest is thinking you need to be an expert on area railroading history. The primary tasks are opening and closing the caboose (basically unlocking the door and turning on the lights) then welcoming visitors as they enter. While some historical knowledge is obviously helpful, experience has shown that volunteers quickly learn from the labels on the exhibits, reference material available in the museum and conversations with other docents. Written procedures and check lists are available for all routine tasks associated with being a docent.

And no, you don't need to live in Truckee. Some of our regulars live in Reno and other communities around the lake and in the Bay Area who volunteer when in the area. Each shift is three hours long and can be scheduled on-line weeks or months in advance.

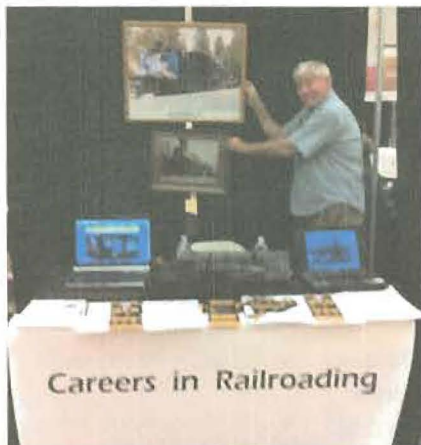
If you are on the fence, come on in and spend some time. Talk with working docents and get a feel for the experience. I think you will find it fulfilling and fun. You will meet some very interesting folks from around the country and world. Questions? Call me (530) 582-4271 or email at [ddavis@litol.com](mailto:ddavis@litol.com).



## Railroad Society at Truckee High School Career Night.

### Nelson VanGundy and Jerry Blackwill

TDRS had a booth at the recent STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) fair and it went very well. It was attended by over 200 students and lots of parents. Nelson and Jerry visited with quite a few of them, and handed out information about Union Pacific (UP) jobs, railroad jobs in general, and the railroad society.



We brought pictures, maps, and operating models of a Shay locomotive and rotary snow plow. In addition we had laptops running slide shows on both the UP and local logging history, all of which helped to draw attention to our booth. We pointed out to everyone that at this STEAM event that we were the only booth with real steam engines [albeit models!].

**Nelson Van Gundy** at the Railroad Society's STEAM Fair booth.

### Big Boy No. 4014 To Steam Again

#### Peter Baumhefner

The Union Pacific Railroad is undertaking the restoration of UP 4014, one of the largest steam locomotives ever built at 132 feet long and weighing in at 1.2 million pounds! UP 4014 was delivered to the railroad in December 1941 and retired in December 1961. It has been on display in Pomona California and is being moved to Cheyenne WYO where its restoration is expected to take between three and five years.



## 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.

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

[www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com](http://www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com)  
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

### 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.

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