

Snowshed

June, 2014

Volume 7 Number 2

President's Letter

Jim Hood



We want to thank Brewster West Foundation for their extremely generous contribution to the Truckee Donner Railroad Society that we received in July 2014. We have used their contributions to upgrade the displays/exhibits in the existing Museum and plan to do the same with their most recent grant. The funding that they have provided allows us to continue to expand our presence in Truckee where it is our long term goal to build a larger Museum to better showcase our rich Railroad History. We greatly appreciate Barbara and Eric Johnson and their Brewster West Foundation for their continued support.

- ◆ Brewster West Foundation makes donation
- ◆ Annual meeting to be held in August, board members to be elected
- ◆ Call for Docents Continues

We will hold the annual meeting of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society on Saturday, August 23, 2014. The meeting will be held at the Truckee River Regional Park, 10050 Brockway Road, Truckee, CA where we are building a scale, riding Railroad. All members and interested persons are encouraged to attend. The meeting will start at 4:00pm with a social hour. Dinner will be served after a short business meeting to address the progress that has been made toward our ultimate goal of building a permanent Railroad Museum in Truckee. Election of the Board of Directors for the next two years will be held at the Annual Meeting this year. A nominating committee will propose a slate of board members – anyone wishing to join the Board of Directors please contact Jim Hood at jim.hood7914@att.net or 530-550-1233.

In side

Grading is complete, 2
track panels near
completion

Ballast is mostly laid and 2
ready for track

Our riding Rail Road is 2
quickly becoming a
reality!

2014 Trestle tours 3
announced

We continue to have discussions regarding our future museum development plans. By far our best opportunity is to build in the Railyard Development adjacent to and just east of Historic Downtown Truckee. Rick Holliday is the developer for this project. He has continued to discuss with us, the possibility of including the next expansion of our Museum within Phase 1A of the Railyard Development. Rick remains optimistic that he will be able to get the funds to start building the infrastructure for the development in the near future.

Caboose Museum Status

Don Davis

This month I can report that the physical modifications to the logging display are completed and working. Development of the expanded narration segments is progressing, albeit at a slower rate than planned. It turns out that writing an interesting, brief and informative script is a more formidable task than we previously thought. But we do have someone, a new member, Bonnie Thompson, who understands what is needed and is has taken on the task. Fortunately, making the recordings and installing them is fairly straight forward and easy once we get the texts. So I'm confident that we will have some of them installed and playing by the time you receive this newsletter.

The major challenge for the museum continues to be building the docent base to a level where we can fill all of the shifts without overstressing anyone. We've recently added a few new folks who are coming are up to speed quickly and lightening the load. However we can use 9 or 10 more. Shifts take only three hours and can be scheduled well in advance to fit into your personal schedule. This is a good way to help move toward the "future museum" goal. If you would like to learn more, and perhaps give us a hand, drop me an E-mail at dda-vis@ltol.com.

Construction of Society's Riding Rail Road in the Truckee Regional Park Well Underway!

Bob Bell

Construction has been underway the past several weeks at the Regional Park and at my home on our miniature riding train project. To date we have completed the grading and fill work, placed approximately 75% of the rock ballast and constructed about 85% of the 10 foot track panels. Thanks goes to Tom Smith, Roger Skinner, Laurie Skinner, Jerry Blackwill, Steve Disbrow, Carl Pape, Ed Czerwinski, Ed Larson, Tom Combs, Dan Pearson, and Jim Schmitt for giving up a few mornings and afternoons to help with the construction on the track, grading and ballast work. Thanks also to material and equipment contributions from Ace Mountain Hardware and Sports, Al Pombo Inc., and Bert and Sons excavation for the work completed so far.

We are now just a few thousand dollars short of our needed funds to complete our requirements for Phase I. Please consider a donation to help us meet the challenge of getting up and running in August this year. Next is completing and installing the track panels, ballasting the track, construction of the loading/unloading ramp and concrete driveway crossing and walkway. Then we will be ready to start running.

We also want to extend a thank you to the Optimist Club of Truckee, Truckee Rotary Community Foundation, Tom and Polly Bredt, John Tule Kuzma, Railroad Regulators 601, Michael

F. Sabarese Fund, and Gerald Feeney for their contributions used to purchase the steel rail and plastic tie materials.

Don't forget to join us at the park for a Truckee History day July 19 in conjunction with the Historical Society's Old Timers Picnic to learn more about this project and take a tour of the railroad site. Call me (582-0726) or email (bellbob@sbcglobal.net) if you want to help out with the construction, and please consider a tax deductible contribution to the Society for the project.

Got a catchy name for our RR? Send your suggestions to me at my above email address. BB

TRUCKEE TRESTLE TOURS

July 13, October 4th



Come celebrate Truckee's logging history with a tour of the area's logging railroads. We'll travel north on highway 89, swing off the highway and see what's left of the Hobart Mill's locomotive shop, long abandoned logging car bodies, old trestles, and the traces of roadbeds of the Hobart Southern, the Hobart Estates [Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company], the Boca and Loyaltan Ry. [later the Clover Valley Lumber Co.], and the Verdi Lumber Co railroads.

We recommend hiking gear; good boots or hiking shoes are a must. 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 cover 40-50 miles of paved highway, USFS system roads, some rather doubtful 4 wheel-drive trails, and old railroad roadbed. It will be hot, dusty, and perhaps showery. Please bring whatever food and drink you'd like to have for a long afternoon -- there will be no fast food available on this tour.

Cameras are recommended. Cell phones are allowed, and should be turned off as we leave Truckee. This trip usually takes from 4-6 hours, depending on road and trail conditions, questions, photo opportunities, avid RR discussions, wildflowers, serendipitous finds, etc., and is never the same twice.

Meet at 9:30 AM at the Truckee RR Museum next to the Depot.

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

Bonnie Thompson

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

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.

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