

Snowshed

September, 2014

Volume 7 Number 3

Truckee River Rail Road Open for Business

Bob Bell



- ◆ Park rail road named "Truckee River Rail Road".
- ◆ Grand opening of rail road huge success, 225 go for ride
- ◆ Future plans for rail road discussed

The Society's TRUCKEE RIVER RAILROAD miniature train at the Community Regional Park is up and running!! The first run day was August 31 and we had 125 riders in three hours with no advertising. On September 14 we had a formal opening with our partner the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park district staff and board members. Our monetary and in-kind donors, and construction volunteers were all recognized and each in attendance installed a "golden screw" to complete the ceremony. We were overwhelmed with over 225 kids and parents riding the train with only a small announcement in our local community newspaper.

Our next run days will be Sunday September 28, Saturday October 11 and 25. We might schedule a run in November weather permitting. Watch the Society's webpage for updates on our run schedule.

Each run requires four volunteers: a Trainmaster, Stationmaster, Conductor, and Engineer (each position has documented responsibilities) with individuals rotating between the positions during the day. Ideally we will have a fifth person who can give the others a break during the day.

Phase 2 (in the survey and planning stage) will add an additional 800 feet of track. We are also planning to construct a scale snow shed to be both a feature during the ride and an on site storage facility. Other station and track amenity projects are envisioned.

We will also be working through the winter on engineer and caboose cars, construction of a static play train, and miscellaneous other projects in preparation for next summer. Thanks again to all our construction volunteers and donors for all the hard work and support. A special thanks to Tom Smith for the several hundred hours he has put into the project. We plan to have everyone recognized on a permanent plaque to be on display at the track next summer. Please contact me if you

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want to get involved in the operations by helping out on our remaining run days this year or on the winter projects.. And of course, additional funding for the projects this winter and next summer is always needed so please consider a donation to help us along with our plans. Keep the bells and whistles



Truckee River Rail Road is "held up" during an opening day ride.

Caboose Museum Status

Don Davis

In order to preserve space for the news about the newly named Truckee River Railroad, I'll keep this quarter's report short and sweet. We reached a major milestone in the upgrade of the logging display this quarter. All of the planned modifications to the display itself have been completed and the recorded narrations and spotlight pointers are operational. We will wait until attendance slows this winter to install the G scale Shay as it is likely we will have to close the museum for a weekend or two while the cabinet modifications are made. In the meantime, come look at it and give me your critiques. We've added a few more docents this summer but have lost a couple as well. Docent-ing is a fun way to increase your knowledge of Truckee Railroad history and is one thing nearly everyone can do to help bring a permanent museum to fruition. We've recently picked up docents from Sacramento and Reno and we have one living in San Jose demonstrating that you do not have to live in Truckee to be a docent.. My E-mail address is ddavis@ltd.com should you want to learn more about any of the above.

President' Letter

Jim Hood

The annual meeting of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society was held on August 23rd at the Truckee River Regional Park. The reason for having the annual meeting at the park this year was to give the membership in attendance a "sneak preview" of the Truckee River Railroad (a riding railroad that TDRS built in the park). It was a beautiful afternoon and everyone appeared to have an enjoyable time riding on the railroad, talking and dining on good food. A short business meeting was held to elect the Board of Directors for the 2014 to 2016 term. The new Directors are Bob Bell, Jerry Blackwill, Barbara Czerwinski, Ed Czerwinski, Don Davis, Steve Disbrow, Jim Hood, Christopher "Chip" Huck, Bonnie Thompson and Nelson Van Gundy. This will be Bonnie's first full term as board member. We welcome her aboard and look forward to her contributions to the Railroad Society. This will be a very challenging two year term for the Board as we try to finalize plans for an interim museum and explore possibilities for a permanent museum.

Last Trestle Tour Of The Year

October 4th

You can still get the last Trestle Tour of the season. Nelson Van Gundy will be leading a day-long trip to see the remains of the Hobart, Boca & Loyalton, and Verdi Lumber railroads. Meet at the Caboose museum on October 4 at 9:30AM. For a full description check out:

truckeedomnerrailroadsociety.com/tour/tour.html

Keith Pattison's "Lake Tahoe and Comstock Lode" tour gave us a better understanding of the logging operations from 1859 to 1900. Of special interest was his new map of all the logging railroads in the Truckee – Lake Tahoe area. Here, he is high above Reno and the Carson valley using the map to show where the railroads and flumes were.



The tour included a look at Sand Harbour. The picture on the right is how it looks today and the picture on the left was obviously taken a few years earlier!



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 President, Museum Operations

Jerry Blackwill—Vice President, Strategic Planning

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy — Historian

Barbara Czerwinski

Steve Disbrow

Chip Huck

Bonnie Thompson

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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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