

Snowshed

March, 2015

Volume 8 Number 1

Truckee River Railroad

Bob Bell

We have been very active this winter on the Truckee River Railroad. The lack of snow has given us the opportunity to begin our phase two construction with Bob Ferwerda (aka Bobcat Bob) working several days with his bobcat equipment clearing and grubbing the right of way and moving heavy dirt and rock into the fill area. We should complete the rough grading work before summer and then do the fine grading and rock base.

We need to raise about \$9,000 to buy the steel rail and plastic ties. Donations the railroad receives on our run days is put toward purchase of materials for the railroad, but even with the 20 plus run days scheduled for this summer we will need significant additional contributions to have the money to purchase the rail and tie materials for Phase 2. Please help if you can.

We are nearing completion of the static train that will be installed this Spring at the playground. Tom Smith, Jerry Blackwill, Steve Disbrow, John and Greg Kuzma, Ed Larson and I have been working on the project. Several more work days for the finishing touches and painting and we will be ready to install it at the park. We will also be starting construction on our GP-35 locomotive.

Tom Smith has made some track leveling and maintenance tools and he will be scheduling some work days at the park shortly to fine tune our track in preparation for our opening in April and continuing thru October (weather permitting). The schedule for the runs is on our website for anyone interested in planning to enjoy the rides with their families or come out and help operate the train. We will need 4-6 volunteers each time we run so please let me know what run days you can put on your schedule to help out.

The Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT) community project committee has agreed to construct our scaled and historically accurate replica of a Sierra snowshed. It will be 27 feet long, with doors, and will be used for history interpretation, safety education and storage of our riding cars and other equipment when not in use. Construction should start as soon as the weather permits. The train will also run



Static Display Loco under construction at Bell's Toyland Shop



- ◆ TRRR Track expansion under way!
- ◆ CATT to build TRRR Snow Shed
- ◆ Work begins on Static Display and construction of Society Engine

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thru the snow shed every time around the track.

We have been successful in being awarded cash grants from Tahoe Mountains Resorts Foundation and the Union Pacific Railroad toward the purchase and installation of various operational crossing arms, lights, and signs to be used in safety education training. About seven of our members have agreed to become certified by the nationwide "Operation Lifesaver" program and their training should be complete by summer and we will begin our community involvement in railroad safety education. Barbara Czerwinski is putting together a comprehensive plan to achieve this goal.

If you can help call me at (916-716-7897) or email me at (bellbob@sbcglobal.net) and sign up!

Caboose Museum Status

Don Davis

The big news this month is that the new display featuring the UP Automatic Train Control System or ATCS is nearly completed. All the hardware is installed and the display is there for all to see. Borrowing a term from the computer folks we are in the "Beta" test mode. The display works but we are still tweaking the presentation and operational procedures to make it easier to start up and to explain to the visitor.

The display provides a schematic diagram of the track between Roseville and Reno, showing the individual track segments and switches along the way. You can watch the status of the track change as a train moves along. If a section of track is open and unassigned it is shown as white. When the dispatcher assigns the section to a specific train, it changes to green, and when the train moves into the segment it turns red and then back to white as the train moves out. While you can't actually see the trains, you can track their movement as the red bars move along the tracks. Not only is this illustrative of how trains move over Donner Pass, it gives us a tool to answer our most frequently asked question: "When is the next train coming?"

Although we have only a couple of weeks experience, the response from visitors so far has been very positive. It is going to be a great addition to the museum. I want to thank Roger Skinner and Ed Larsen who were the prime movers in getting this display up and running. So come see it. It's neat.



Did you know:

When you shop at Amazon you can designate the Truckee Donner Railroad Society as beneficiary of Amazon's nonprofit contribution program and that Amazon will make a contribution to TDRS on every purchase.?

President's Letter

Jim Hood

We have had some very good meetings with Rick Holliday regarding the build out of the Railroad project in Downtown Truckee. Rick has stated that he will start the long awaited work on the project this summer. Among the first things that will be done will directly impact the Truckee Donner Railroad Society (TDRS). His plans call for moving the Union Pacific maintenance facilities including the "storage tracks" to the far eastern end of his property.

The reason that this is important to TDRS is that our inventory of rolling stock (two cranes, the Pullman car, the rotary snow plow, our switching engine and our storage container) will have to be moved from their current location on one of the "storage tracks". Rick has kindly allowed us to store these assets on his property for many years and we knew that we would eventually need to move them. It looks like that time will be this summer! We have discussed various possible locations for our rolling stock with Rick and will meet with him again in the near future to get his input so we can develop a moving plan.

The Museum continues to have strong attendance. We want to thank our docents for continuing to volunteer and allow us to keep the Museum open on Saturday and Sunday of every week and we want to thank Don Davis for operating and upgrading the Museum. We are starting to get spring like weather in Truckee and will soon be starting operation of the "Kids" Railroad at the Regional Park in Truckee. Bob Bell and Tom Smith plan to start operations of the Railroad in April, weather permitting. The schedule is on our website.

I want to thank all of our members for their continued support and for their donations to TDRS. Your support allows us to continue to help preserve the rich Railroad History of our locality.

Truckee Railroads Alive Series

Jerry Blackwill

The railroad talks keep coming in Truckee. The Railroad Society, the Truckee Donner Historical Society and the Friends of the Truckee Library joined together to sponsor three talks at Truckee Veterans Hall. Barbara Czerwinski gave the January talk on the Streamliner City of San Francisco snow-stranding in 1952. Jerry Blackwill gave the February talk on the railroad that ran from Truckee to Lake Tahoe and the Bliss family that built it. And Gene Rogers gave the March 24th talk about the Truckee logging railroads and the Comstock.

The next talk will be by a Union Pacific expert from Omaha. Dan Rubin, Union Pacific General Director, System Engineering will be talking about Union Pacific's software and hardware technology. Silicon Mountain is the host organization and the talk will be at Pizza on the Hill in Tahoe Donner 6pm, May 11.

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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501(c) 3 non-profit organization

Board of Directors:

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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

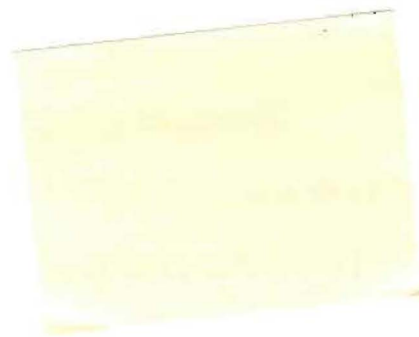
- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Internet Book Sales

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

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