

Snowshed

September 2015

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Truckee River Railroad Status



- ◆ Truckee River Railroad still a huge success!
- ◆ Future focus of miniature railroad to feature safety first
- ◆ Several organizations donate to support pedestrians crossing guard

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Bob Bell

The Society's miniature railroad at the Community Regional Park continues to be successful with over 2000 riders in our first 15 runs this summer with another five or more runs scheduled before the snow flies. The Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT) has begun work on our snow shed project having completed the foundation for the structure.

With the help of Tom Nixon and Tom Smith, we have completed an accurate survey of the additional cuts and fills required for the track expansion and the final grading work will begin this fall. The static train is 95% complete and installation in the park is nearing completion. Please watch for work day email announcements and contact me at "bellbob@sbcglobal.net" if you want to receive the notices for volunteer work and train operations. Learning to operate the train is simple and rewarding and the kids and parents are very appreciative of our efforts. We would love to have more people getting a share of the thrills.

To continue our expansion efforts, we have received the ties and have placed orders for the rail for the next 1000 feet of track. We have also ordered the parts necessary for a Society owned locomotive.

Finally, we have also ordered drop arm crossing gates (to be installed on the pedestrian path crossing the track to the play area), thanks to grants received from Union Pacific Corporation, Lahontan Community Foundation, and Tahoe Mountain Resort Association. A safety education committee has been formed and next year we will have a formal Railroad and safety education program supplemented with Operation Lifesaver authorized volunteers.

You are missing out on a lot of rewarding fun if you not helping out, and many, many thanks go to our volunteers that are making it happen.

Fueling the Comstock

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

TDRS brings many railroad resources to the Truckee area. Each provides fun for all ages.

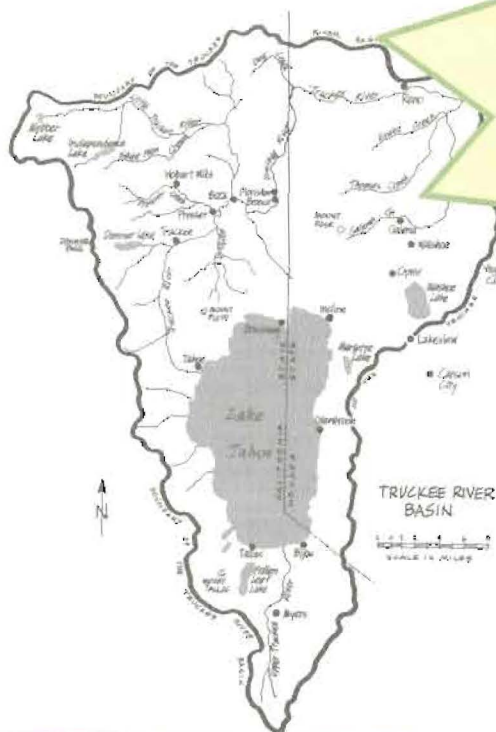
Trestle Tours

For the past 25 years TDRS has been giving tours of old railroad sites, artifacts and grade around the Truckee area.

Truckee Railroad Museum

Opening in 2010, the museum offers displays on the Transcontinental Railroad, logging railroads, and railroad tourism in the Truckee / Tahoe Area.

Trestle Tour



This Year

The tour includes Tunnel Creek! Where the flumes went through the mountain.

The Comstock Lode

was the largest gold and silver discovery in the world in the late 19th century. Most of the wood and water that fueled the activity came from the eastern Sierra and Lake Tahoe Basin. Come hear about the innovations, see the remnants, and walk where these rugged people worked in the wilderness.

2015 Tour:

October 17, 2015—9 am

Meet at:

Incline Village & Crystal Bay Historical Society Museum (same building as Starbucks)

899 Tahoe Blvd.

Incline Village, NV

The outing is a carpool around eastern Lake Tahoe exploring old flumes, railroads and trestles. There are several short, easy hikes along old flume routes and railroad grade. See where the 4000 foot incline railroad took lumber up the mountain. See remnants of a railroad switchback that was built on a trestle.

The tour lasts about six hours. Please bring your lunch, layered clothing, snacks, and drinks. We will stop for a picnic lunch at about noon.

Museum Update

Don Davis

This quarter I thought it might be interesting to take a look at who visits the museum and why. Unfortunately, this idea did not occur to me in time to develop a survey to yield statistically significant results. My one day attempt quickly demonstrated that I need to be more organized in data collecting

I took the survey on a Sunday with good weather but after the "vacation" season. Sixteen groups of visitors visited that day. While the kids in the group focused on the train table, the adults browsed the Lumber, Snow and Transcontinental exhibits. Older children could be enticed into the Sleeper exhibit by pointing out the inscription on the toilet cover but few ventured into the Sleeper otherwise. This result differs from my general impression that children want to sit on the seat and imagine they are a passenger. There was a general interest among adults in current passenger and freight railroads, where they go, their frequency, technology, and operations.

Of the 16 groups who visited the museum, only one family knew of the museum before seeing it from the street, learning about us via the California State Museum news letter's listing of museums. Again the survey was not well designed or implemented so the above comments should be taken with much salt.

Our continuing problem is that we have very few regular docents who volunteer as often as once a month. It only takes three hours on a Saturday or Sunday. Please let me know if you might be interested in participating (ddavis@ltol.com).

Another Fun season of Trestle Tours

This was the 25th year of successful Trestle Tours up the Little Truckee river valley. Nelson Van Gundy and Keith Pattison led two different tours to show us the remnants of the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber railroad out of Hobart Mills, the Boca and Loyalton railroad down the middle of the valley and the Verdi Lumber railroad on the east side of the valley. Participants included David Sunderland, Glee Willis, Richard Weitzenbert, Donald Drake, Howard Goldbaum and Roger Skinner. The low level of Boca reservoir exposed the roadbed of the Boca & Loyalton. The tour started at the Caboose museum, viewing the rotary, crane and Pullman in the rail yard, time viewing the locomotive pits and old logging cars at Hobart Mills, numerous trestles, and old roadbeds throughout the valley. They ended at Boca with an appreciation of the old Boca Brewery. Thanks to Nelson and Keith for their research and leadership.



Boca & Loyalton Roadbed

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about railroading 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:

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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.