



The TURNTABLE

April 2011

NEWSLETTER FOR THE PAID & VOLUNTEER STAFF OF RAILTOWN 1897 STATE HISTORIC PARK

Upcoming Events

April 7

Ladies Luncheon
11:30 at the buffet at
the Black Casino
11:30am

May 5th

Ladies Luncheon
Jamestown at the C &
C Mexican Restaurant
on Hwy 108. 11:30am
Call Marge 533-4595

April 2 & 3

Excursion train season
begins. Residents of
Tuolumne, Calaveras
and Mariposa counties
ride free!

April 9

4:30pm Wildflower
Train with #2 Shay

April 16

4:30pm Wildflower
Train with #2 Shay

April 17

Motor Car Club
At the turntable

April 23

Easter Egg hunt

April 30

Fire Patrol class
8:30am will be held in
the Truck Shed

May 8

Mother's Day

May 18 & 25

School Trains

March Training Series "Telling The Rail town Story" A Great Success

As our March training series comes to a close and our excursion season begins, we want to thank all the participants and presenters for an excellent job. Twenty three new folks have joined our growing staff of volunteers. Paul Hammond our Museum Director and Kim Baker our Park Superintendent helped kick off our series sharing the importance of thematic interpretation. Joe Von Hermann, Interpreter III gave us a nuts and bolts approach to developing a theme. Kyle Wyatt, State Curator and George Sapp our Restoration Specialist both gave informative talks on our rolling stock. Jim Mullin, Leroy Bushart and David Deutsch gave us the basics of tour guiding, each with their own style. Lisa Smithson, Railtown's own Curator shared a class on how the preservation process works. Mike Rainwater, Bob Gibson and Dave Connery gave an excellent day of Car Host training and Kevin Zimmerman presented a session on understanding train movements down at the rock quarry. Joe Sparagna gave two excellent power point presentations on the history of the Sierra Railway and the Lumber Companies. According to John Rand it was *"the best training we've ever had since I've been here since 1997!"* A big thanks to all for an excellent training series!

Railtown Track Maintenance Crew Needed

Rob Buchanan, Park Maintenance Worker I is actively seeking volunteers to join a new project. He is leading a core of volunteers who will be doing much needed repairs to Railtown's yard track and maintaining the track maintenance equipment. A specialized track maintenance safety course will be taught in the near future and all interested crew will be required to attend. It is a short 2 hour course, but necessary to be able to work on the track. Those interested should contact Rob Buchanan at 209-984-3115 or email him at rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov. So come join our track maintenance crew and become part of railroading history!



Joe Von Hermann, State Park Interpreter III gave an excellent workshop on the basics of interpretation.



Mike Rainwater and Kevin Zimmerman both were presenters on our Car Host training day March 26

New and Improved Fire Patrol Training

The first Fire Patrol Training class for 2011 will be on Saturday, April 30. This is a required class if you would like to be part of the Fire Patrol team. Class starts at 0830 and will conclude about 1630 hours with a break for lunch. If you would like to attend, long pants a long sleeved shirt and boots are required. Along with basic Fire Patrol training it will include Operation Lifesaver Rail Safety for First Responders. This program, while designed for police and fire service, teaches rail safety specific for any one working around railroads. A test is given at the completion of the class. Railtown is also pleased to announce that everyone passing the test will receive a certificate from Operation Lifesaver for "Rail Safety for First Responders". Contact Rick Guantone for more information at (209)-763-2617 or Anthony LaNotte at (559) 645-5151

Car Host Reminder

On weekends, Car Hosts sign in at 9:30am. The Stationmaster will arrange the day's schedule based on how many have signed up in advance on the board or with Dave Rainwater. You can always call or email your availability or use the sign up sheets posted in the crew caboose or in the volunteer office. Car Hosts are expected to perform all the daily duties required such as preparing the cars in the morning and closing them up in the evening. AM or PM shifts are available especially on extended excursion days such as the Wildflower Trains or Starlight Express or special chartered excursions. If you are unable to commit to the required duties or arrive late or unannounced, you can always join us as a greeter or tour guide if needed for that day.

Budget Crunch Causes Bottled Water Issue

In order to help reduce operating costs this year, we will no longer be providing bottled water for volunteers (with the exception of special situations where it is the only option). Please bring your own bottle or use the cups and pitchers available in the carriage room. TUD (our local water utility) tests the water weekly, and reports that it is excellent (and it tastes great). Here are a few interesting facts about bottled water: 1.5 million barrels of oil are used every year to manufacture disposable plastic water bottles for the US market (that's enough to fuel 100,000 cars for the year). Also, did you know that bottled water is subject to less rigorous testing and purity standards than tap water. We have been spending between \$2000 to \$3000 per year on bottled water, so we appreciate your help in realizing this savings.

Special Thanks

We want to thank all the volunteers who helped with our Home and Garden Show display: Laverne Coon, Darryl & Linda Bramlette, Jeanette Foster, Janet Hart and Debbie Ulrey. Even though the weather cancelled our participation in the Murphy's Irish Day parade, we'd like to thank Al Lehr, Cliff Hughes, Robert Staggs, Allan & Judy Nordstrom, Richard Vigil, Gary Hosman and Marty Gerbasi for preparing our float.

Above & Beyond

Many of us are never aware of what happens behind the scenes in the roundhouse. A special thanks is in order for David Tadlock and David Eithier who spent many long hours working on our #2 Shay engine in order to have it ready for our opening weekend. From all the staff and volunteers THANK YOU !

Volunteer of The Month - Dave Connery

You might suspect that everyone who volunteers at Railtown has a keen interest in history. It's very true about Dave Connery our March volunteer of the month. He has a college degree in psychology and a Master's degree in business administration. But where does all his knowledge and avid love of railroad history come from? Dave is from Albany, New York and many members of his family had worked for the railroad. In high school he worked as a messenger for the New York Central Railroad. He has been an HO scale hobbyist for many years and is a member of the National Model Railroad Association. It all shows when he's sharing our Sierra Railroad history to countless numbers of visitors as a Car Host. He has written historical articles for railroad periodicals including our local Chispa and was a key presenter along with Mike Rainwater for our Car Host training day on March 26th. Dave retired in 1991 after 21 years with Pacific Bell telephone and lives in San Ramon with his wife Emma. Dave worked with Al Bolander as a Car Host for years but likes to relate this humorous story of his first visit to Railtown. *"One day shortly after I retired I visited Railtown to take photographs of our rolling stock. The park had closed and Al Bolander chased me off the property. As revenge I joined the then active Railtown 1897 Docent Association and I've been a volunteer ever since."* If you follow Dave on one of our excursion rides on weekends you will be rewarded with reliable history and accurate information, not only about the Sierra Railroad, but also our local mining and lumbering history. What does he like most about volunteering at Railtown? He paused for a moment then said *"I think the thing I like the most is when our visitors get that 'wow' experience when they finally realize they're in the middle of a lot of very unique history."*

(pictured right are two photos from Dave's HO scale model layout)



Front of the Jamestown Roundhouse



Sonora passenger and Freight Depots

New Junior Docent Program At Rail town

Kim Baker our Park Ranger is piloting a new junior docent program for younger volunteers under 18. We already have 5 junior volunteers to help pioneer this new program, which we'll be revising as the season progresses. Minors are subject to labor laws preventing them from working around heavy machinery and hazardous materials, so you'll most often see them on board as car hosts, greeters, roving interpreters or on other assigned tasks. They will be scheduled for 2 hour shifts and assigned a paid staff member to check in with. We will be looking to our more seasoned volunteers to assist with mentoring. Please let Kim know if you are interested in assisting or have ideas for any potential roles for our new volunteers.

Easter Egg Hunt

Volunteers still needed to help with this year's Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 23rd. Please call the volunteer desk if you can join us (209) 984-4408.

(*Note: 'Tater' aka Richard Learned will be our featured entertainer on board the trains that day)



RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

PO Box 1250

Jamestown, CA 95327

Return Service Requested



TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953

Docent Hotline- (209) 984-4408

Docent Site- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>

Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

Newsletter submissions: RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov

(all area codes are 209)

Kim Baker , Park Superintendent	984-4622	kbaker@parks.ca.gov
George Sapp , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	gsapp@parks.ca.gov
Kevin Zimmerman , Asst. Railroad Operations Manager	557-0294	kzimmerman@parks.ca.gov
Lisa Smithson , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	lsmithson@parks.ca.gov
Ryan Richelson , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	rrichelson@parks.ca.gov
Rob Buchanan , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov
Danny Taylor , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	dtaylor@parks.ca.gov
Dave Rainwater , Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	darainwater@parks.ca.gov
Kevin Zimmerman , Engine Crew Caller	557-0294	kzimmerman@parks.ca.gov
Ron White , Stationmaster and Asst. Crew Caller for Car Hosts	551-7087	rbarryw@att.net
Rick Guantone , Crew Caller Fire Patrol	763-2617	guantone@comcast.net
Laverne Coon , Special Decorations and Ticket Agent Caller	984-4408	

Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request