



Upcoming Events

April 2

Excursion season begins!
Ole' No.3 is on the track and everyone rides free
Saturday's entertainment will be The Starlight Serenaders

April 3

Ole' No. 3 is on the track
Entertainment with Dave Rainwater

April 5

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ Sonora Oaks Café
at the Best Western Hotel.
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

April 9

Wildflower Train @ 3pm
New Melones Park Ranger
presentation at 2:15pm in
the Carriage Room

April 9 & 10

Railtown booth at the
Home & Garden Show
Sonora Fairgrounds

April 16

Wildflower Train @ 3pm
New Melones Park Ranger
presentation at 2:15pm in
the Carriage Room

May 2

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ Papa's Roost
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

May 6

Special school days & train
rides

May 14 & 15

Two days of Fire Patrol
Class with Anthony LaNotte
(required for all Fire Patrol
Volunteers)

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"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."
-Author Unkown

Tour Guiding Basics

An interpretive program creates a lasting memory for our visitors. Two key elements are the beginning and the end. A good Introduction frames your program and a good conclusion ties your program up in a bow. Hopefully, our visitors walk away with an understanding of why it is important to preserve Railtown 1897 S.H.P. Ideally they will be stimulated to learn more as well.

HERE ARE DO'S AND DON'TS FOR PROGRAM INTRODUCTIONS:

DO arrive early and get to know your audience.

(Is this your first visit here? Or where are you from? Or are you interested in trains?)

DO smile and be welcoming. This is a great ice-breaker.

DO try to look everyone in the eye if possible.

DO introduce yourself and mention that you are a volunteer.

DO welcome to them California State Parks and/or Railway 1897 State Historic Park. Too many folks confuse us with the National Parks.

DO NOT wear sunglasses. If you have dark prescription glasses, take them off temporarily if you can. Wearing sunglasses creates a barrier between you and the visitors.

DO NOT turn your back on your audience while you are talking to them.

HERE ARE DO'S AND DON'TS FOR PROGRAM CONCLUSIONS:

DO announce that "the last stop is coming up next" before your final stop.

DO leave your audience with a take away message. For instance, *"the Sierra Railway was important because..."* Or leave them with a question, such as *"How is the Sierra Railway connected to your daily life?"*

DO thank the visitors for coming on your tour.

DO announce other interpretive programs such as Jr. Rangers or upcoming special events. You have the option of doing this during your introduction or conclusion.

DO say that you will be around a few minutes for any questions before you leave the group.

DO NOT end by saying "this is the end of the tour". Try to leave our visitors food for thought. (See page 45 of the Volunteer Handbook)



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Lynn Thompson leads a tour for a scout group

Hopefully these tips will help you connect with our visitors and keep them connected to our park. This article was submitted by Jeri Zemon, Park Interpretive Specialist. Please feel free to ask Jeri any questions you may have or for any help you may need to improve your interpretive work.

Hello Volunteer Staff,

In case I have not met you, my name is Jeri Zemon. I was recently hired as a Park Interpretive Specialist. I am working two to three days a week as a seasonal employee. Here is a little bit about me and how I ended up working with you at Railway 1897 State Historic Park.

I am a native San Franciscan and a graduate of U.C. Berkeley with a degree in Conservation of Natural Resources. I started with California State Parks in the winter/spring seasons of 1982-1985 as a park aid at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. In addition, I spent eight summers working as a seasonal for the U.S. Forest Service in the high Sierras. I had the best of both worlds! But my desire was to get a permanent job. Somehow I ended up spending the next 28 years in southern California.

I became a State Park Peace Officer or Ranger in 1987. I spent two years working at the San Diego Coast State Parks. Then I transferred to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park where I spent the next 26 years. I retired last May and moved to Sonora in June. Soon after retiring, I realized that I missed working in parks and I missed being an interpreter. So thanks to Kim Baker I was hired at Railtown S.H.P. as a retired annuitant.

I am happy to be back in Northern California, where I can be near my favorite things: the Sierra Nevada, my friends and family in the Bay Area and the San Francisco Giants.

I look forward to learning about the colorful history of this park from the Roundhouse Hosts, Tour Guides and Car Hosts. I plan to see all of your programs. Eventually I will present train excursion programs and Roundhouse tours. Hopefully I can demonstrate a thematic approach to "Telling the Railtown Story". It's great to be on board!



Representing Railtown and marching in the Murphy's Irish Days parade were (left to right): Bill Baum, Al Tunsen (holding the banner), Gary Olson (Park Superintendent from Calaveras Big Trees), Nancy Bull, Bob Ide and Lynn Thompson (hold the banner). Also not shown was Nancy Johnson (with her grand children)



Jeanette Foster, David Luther and Al Tunsen staffed our booth at this years Murphy's Irish Day Celebration



(left to right) David Ethier, Hal Montano and Joe Yonan showing period costuming for gentlemen



(left to right) Jeannie Teschke, Karen McMahon, Ann Pierson and Janet Montano came in stunning period dress to help at our annual new volunteer open house



Costuming expert Janet Montano literally set up shop from her personal collection for the Costuming workshop held on March 5th



Is it Amelia Earhart? No, it's longtime volunteer and locomotive engineer Stephanie Tadlock taking a break from her maintenance work in the smoke box for a photo opportunity



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TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
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 Volunteer Website- <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>
 Railtown Blog- www.railtown1897.wordpress.com
 Newsletter Editor— Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov
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Railtown 1897 & The California State Railroad Museum Foundation thanks our following business members:

The Union Democrat, Black Oak Casino Resort, The Willow Steakhouse and Saloon, The National Hotel, The Jamestown Hotel, The Twain Harte Rotary, The Tuolumne County Economic Prosperity Council, Tourism Tactics, Pizza Plus, Buck's Auto Body, Yosemite Title, Sierra Nevada Communications, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, Edward Jones, Hurst Ranch, Robert E. Boyer Construction Inc., Kiwanis of Sonora



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

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