



# The TURNTABLE

February 2013

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

### Upcoming Events

#### February 2

New Volunteer Open House & Work and Play Day 9-1 (Carriage Rm)

#### February 5

Railtown Ladies Luncheon @ The Europa Restaurant and Deli (across from the Opera Hall). Call Marge at 533-4595 for information

#### February 9

New Volunteer Orientation Day 9-3 (Carriage Rm)

#### February 16

Telling The Railtown Story training sessions begin 9-3 pm (Carriage Room)

#### February 21

Annual Maintenance and Restoration Shop Training 8:30-1pm (Tri-Dam Bldg)

#### February 23

Telling The Railtown Story 9-3 pm (Carriage Room)

#### February 24

GCOR Study Hall held at Jamestown Community Hall, Noon- 4 pm

#### March 2 & 3

GCOR Training 2-day class for all engine crew volunteers 8-4pm

#### March 9

Telling The Railtown Story 9-3 pm (Carriage Room)

#### March 16 & 23

Telling The Railtown Story 9-3 pm (Carriage Room)

#### March 30

Car Host Training with practice train rides 9-3 pm (Carriage Rm & on board)

### 2012 What A Year!

#### Railtown Volunteers Honored

Despite the imminent threat of park closure, the volunteers and citizens of Tuolumne County rallied in continued support of our park with many dedicated hours of service and community fundraisers. Railtown volunteers alone contributed over 24,000 hours of service in 2012. All of this reaffirming to the State and citizens of California what a valuable asset and treasure Railtown 1897 State Historic Park is. We were pleased to honor many volunteers at this years annual volunteer appreciation dinner, held each year in January. Our banquet this year, held at the Elks Lodge began with a very entertaining visit by the 'Singing Nuns'. At first we were thinking we may have had to have an 'altar call' with a few of their reverent songs, but no! They cast off their nun attire to reveal some jazzy tunes and we found out they weren't really nuns after all. The food was great as always, catered by Stephanie Smith and crew. This year we had a special visitor from state assembly member Kristin Olsen's office. Her chief of staff, Paul Zeek was on hand to give a special thank you certificate to many of our volunteers who showed 'extraordinary and outstanding efforts to shore up our Parks and Recreation budget shortfall.'

Our 'Rookie of The Year' award for 2012 went to Don Slifert who contributed over 575 hours in his first year. Tommy Johnson, Nancy Bull and Ron White were honored with the 'Outstanding Service' award. Our annual 'Above and Beyond' awards went to Hal Montano, Karen Ethier, Alexa Melville and Bob Ide. This year we presented our first 'Volunteer of The Year' award to David Ethier. The criteria for this award is that it is given to an individual committed to advancing the mission of California State Parks, helping to preserve the State's most valued cultural and natural resources and providing a high quality experience (continued page 3)



The 'Singing Nuns' entertained



Nancy Bull, Tommy Johnson and Ron White (not present) received the Outstanding Service Award



Bob Ide, Hal Montano, Karen Ethier and Alexa Melville receiving the Above and Beyond Award



David Ethier receives our very first Volunteer of The Year Award



Marty Gerbasi receives the State Poppy Award



## 2012 Volunteer Training Schedule

All new and returning volunteers are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible.

- February 2 *New Volunteer Open House* plus a work and play day (10-1 @ Carriage Room)
- February 9 *New Volunteer Orientation Day* (9-2 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am Welcome To California State Parks/Kim Baker– Park Superintendent
- 10:30am Telling The Railtown Story Overview/Paul Hammond- Museum Director
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00 pm Nuts and Bolts, Duty Statements/Dave Rainwater-Volunteer Coordinator
- February 16 *Telling The Railtown Story* (9-3 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am Interpreting in The Waiting Room/Leroy Bushart-Veteran Volunteer
- 10:30am Locomotives & Rolling Stock of Railtown/Kyle Wyatt-Museum Curator
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00pm Giving A Model Tour with Leroy Bushart
- 2:30pm Recap
- February 21 *Maintenance & Restoration Worker Meeting* (starts at 8:30 @ Tri-Dam Building)
- February 23 *Telling The Railtown Story* (9-3 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am History of The Sierra Railway/Dave Connery-Historian, Veteran Volunteer
- 10:30am Take What You Know & Tell A Good Tale/BZ Smith, Storyteller
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00pm Giving A Model Tour with Dave Connery
- 2:30pm Recap
- February 24 *GCOR Study Hall* (Noon-4 @ Jamestown Community Hall)
- March 2 *GCOR Training* (8-4 @ Jamestown Community Hall)
- March 3 *GCOR Training* (8-Noon @ Railtown, Noon 4pm @ Jamestown Community Hall)
- March 9 *Telling The Railtown Story* (9-3 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am Curating Railtown/ The Good, The Bad, The Ugly/Lisa Smithson– Curator
- 10:30am Interpreting A Steam Locomotive/George Sapp-Restoration Lead Worker
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00pm Giving A Model Tour with John Stier– Veteran Volunteer
- 2:30pm Recap
- March 16 *Telling The Railtown Story* (9-3 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am The History of Jamestown/ Joe Sparagna-Historian & Veteran Volunteer
- 10:30am The Blacksmith & Belt Shop/Al Lehr-Veteran Volunteer & Lisa Smithson
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00pm Giving A Model Tour with Joe Sparagna
- 2:30pm Recap
- March 23 *Telling The Railtown Story & Volunteer Party* (9-3 @ Carriage Room)
- 9:00am Hollywood & The Sierra Railway/Monty Youngborg-Historian
- 10:30am Thematic Interpretation/Joe Von Hermann-State Park Interpreter III
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 1:00pm Interpreters Workshop, quiz & volunteer Party w/Joe Von Hermann
- March 30 *Car Host Training & Practice* (9-3 @ Carriage Room and on board the trains)
- 9:00am Car Hosting/Dave Connery, Ron White and Tommy Johnson
- 11:00am Practice Train ride for Car Hosts
- Noon Bag Lunch
- 2:00pm Car Host practice on board with passengers
- April 6 & 7 Excursion Trains Season begins
- March 13 *Fire Patrol Training* with Anthony LaNotte (9-4 @ Railtown)
- April 11 *Fire Patrol Training* with Anthony LaNotte (9-4 @ Railtown)



## Wayne Weilburg, Railtown's New Park Host

Railtown is happy to have a new volunteer position – Park Host. Some of you will remember our former hosts, David and Sandra Gibson, who were here for a short time in 2011. Our new Park Host is Wayne Weilburg. Wayne joined us as a volunteer in August of 2012. He applied for and was granted the position of a Park Host, living on the premises in his own recreational vehicle near the Tri-Dam. He frequently volunteers with our maintenance crew on Thursdays and has worked as a Greeter and Tour Guide. In addition, Wayne's duties as Park Host will include assisting with light housekeeping, maintenance chores, plus providing information about our park to visitors. A Park Host also provides extra "eyes and ears" during period when our park is closed, which helps prevent vandalism and theft. Wayne is a native Californian, born and raised in Stockton. He moved to Tuolumne County with his wife Ann, almost seven years ago and she currently resides in an assisted living facility in Sonora. Wayne is retired from the Sharpe Army Depot after 15 years, where he worked as a security guard. He also spent four years in the U.S. Coast Guard as a machinist mate. An avid model railroader, Wayne loves trains, but currently has no space to set up his display. He loves to play guitar, accordion and go camping when he can.

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(Awards continued from page 1) for park visitors. The truth is all our award winners could be honored this way. But the volunteer of the year inspires others through their attitude, dedication and professionalism, promoting park values in their volunteer duties and when representing the park in the community at large.

We are fortunate to have a number of Railtown volunteers who have won state level awards. Past recipients for the Medallion For Superior Achievement include Dottie Bolander, Laverne Coon and Marge and Virgil Lovingfoss. Past winners for the Poppy Award for Exemplary Volunteer Service include Bill Gillaspie, John Stier, Gary Hosman and David Deutsch. This year we were please to see this award go to Marty Gerbasi who has contributed many long hours of effective service since 2004. Congratulations Marty!

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## Railtown News

### Recovery Wishes Dewey Barron

We are pleased to hear that long time volunteer Dewey Barron is doing well, recovering from heart surgery earlier in January. Cards and wishes can be sent to Dewey, 15281 Bear Cub Drive, Sonora, 95370, or you are welcome to call 209-533-1505.

### Dave Connery To Present a Program at the History Museum

Our very volunteer historian will be the key note speaker at the Tuolumne County Historical Society's 57th Annual Lamplight Dinner. It will be held on April 20 in the Manzanita Building at the fairgrounds in Sonora. Tickets are \$35 per person and early reservations are recommended. Dave has done a lot of research on the Sierra Railway with particular interest in the colorful Angels Branch. His presentation 'The Unique Angels Branch of The Sierra Railway' will bring to light how it came into being, what made it so special and what eventually happened to it.

### First Annual Maintenance Meeting

All maintenance and restoration volunteers are requested to attend the first annual maintenance meeting at the Tri Dam Building on February 21 at 8:30, where a special breakfast will be served. Please join Railtown staff on a number of issues and your input is also welcome!



**RAILTOWN 1897**  
State Historic Park

**PO Box 1250**

**Jamestown, CA 95327**

**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**



**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953  
**Volunteer Desk-** (209) 984-4408  
**Docent Site-** <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>  
**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)  
**Crew Caboose-** (209) 984-0352



**Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*Newsletter submissions: [darainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov)*

*(all area codes are 209)*

<b>Kim Baker</b> , Park Superintendent	984-4622	<a href="mailto:kbaker@parks.ca.gov">kbaker@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>George Sapp</b> , Railroad Restoration Lead Worker (DSLE)	774-6368	<a href="mailto:gsapp@parks.ca.gov">gsapp@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa DeLacy</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	<a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ryan Richelson</b> , Maintenance Supervisor	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rrichelson@parks.ca.gov">rrichelson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Rob Buchanan</b> , Park Maintenance Worker I	984-3115	<a href="mailto:rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov">rbuchanan@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	<a href="mailto:dtaylor@parks.ca.gov">dtaylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Dave Rainwater</b> , Senior Park Aid & Volunteer Coordinator	984-4408	<a href="mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov">darainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ron White</b> , Stationmaster and Asst. Crew Caller for Car Hosts	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>
<b>Carl Rudolph</b> , Crew Caller Fire Patrol	586-9905	<a href="mailto:cakr@sonnet.com">cakr@sonnet.com</a>
<b>Karen Ethier</b> , Ticket Agent Coordinator	471-2525	<a href="mailto:kmethier@gmail.com">kmethier@gmail.com</a>

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