



February  
2014

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

### Upcoming Events

#### **February 4**

Railtown Ladies Luncheon  
@ C & C Restaurant in  
Jamestown, Call Marge @  
533-4595

#### **February 8**

New Volunteer Open House  
10am—1pm in the  
Carriage Room. Please  
invite interested volunteers  
to join us!

#### **February 13**

Parade Float Meeting 1pm  
in the Carriage Room

#### **February 15**

Roundhouse Day 10am-2pm  
New Volunteer Orientation  
1-4pm in Carriage Room

#### **February 22**

All Hands Meeting 9am-1pm  
in Carriage Room

#### **March 1**

'Telling The Railtown Story'  
training series 9am-3pm  
in the Carriage Room

#### **March 4**

Railtown Ladies Luncheon  
@ Hong Kong in Sonora  
call Marge @ 533-4595

#### **March 6**

Maintenance & Shop Safety

#### **Required Training**

8:30-11:30am in the  
Carpenters Shop

#### **March 8**

'Telling The Railtown Story'  
training series 9am-3pm  
in the Carriage Room

#### **March 15**

'Telling The Railtown Story'  
training series 9am-3pm  
in the Carriage Room

#### **March 22 & 23**

GCOR Class 8:30am-5pm  
in the Carpenters Shop

#### **March 29**

Car Host Training Class  
9am-3pm

#### **April 5**

Excursion Train Season  
begins

## **New Year, New Outlook      Kim Baker-Park Superintendent**

The New Year is always an important period of renewal for Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. It is a luxury to work at a park that has an "Off-Season", it gives us time to focus on needed repairs and improvements so that we can better serve the public in the upcoming season. This year is no exception. Here's some of what's happening right now.

**AB 1478 Donor/Matching Fund projects-** Where this money is coming from, and how it is being used, is a complicated process (we'll review in greater detail at the All-Hands meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>), but in a nutshell: Due to the budget cuts, the park had bare-bone funding. All other funding is coming from donor funds, and matching funds available to us under AB 1478. With these additional funds (most good through June only) we have been able to address many deferred planning and maintenance needs, including: Interpretive Master Plan and School Program development (you'll hear more about this through 2016), Historic Structures Report for the Freight Shed, major tree work to restore historic views, upholstery for railcars, Camp Host Site development, CCTV installation for video surveillance, upgrades to the phone and IT network, restoration of the porta-potty contract for the next two years, replacement of one of the electric vehicles, National and State Historic Landmark nominations, new picnic tables, new door from the Tri-Dam into the 100 car, Movie Exhibit design work, new tools and supplies and more.

**Speaking of New Tools** We are looking for a few volunteers to develop a better system for distribution of tools and materials on our Thursday work days. We have been fortunate this year to be able to replace broken and missing items. However, we want to ensure that we are able to maintain at this level. On some days we can have as many as 50 volunteers working in the shop, and it can be a challenge to just ensure that everything is put back where it belongs at the end of the day. If you are interested in being a part of the team to make improvements in this area of our operation, please let Ryan or I know.

**March 6<sup>th</sup> - Required Work Day Training** Mark Your Calendars. Breakfast will be served! We'll have our second annual work day training on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this training is to ensure that we comply with various regulatory agency rules on training for staff. We are working to make it a fun and informative training as well. We will also be planning for 2014 shop projects this day. If you have suggestions, please let us know. If you are unable to make this date, we will work with you to ensure that you are able to access the training at another time.

**Polar Express Coming to Railtown?** The answer is: We hope so. The Polar Express is a very successful franchise that could provide a great deal of revenue as well as bring a large number of new visitors to Railtown, and Tuolumne County. The California State Railroad Museum Foundation (our non-profit partner) is working to finalize contracts with Rail Events. Once those are in place, you will be hearing more from the foundation as we work together to make this the most successful fundraiser ever.

**Volunteer Training** Dave and Karen are working to bring new and continuing volunteers some great training opportunities. Our new volunteer Open House is Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage people you know to attend. We are specifically recruiting right now for Car Hosts and Tour Guides.

## Railroad Lanterns

Hidden about the dark recesses at Raintown sit a number of dusty, old railroad lanterns. Perhaps easily overlooked, lanterns have played an important role in railroad history, safety, and communication. Before the advent of radios, communication was difficult at best due to distance, noise and lighting situations. Since the establishment of the earliest railroads, lanterns have been used as a way to communicate, especially in the dark. They were portable, easily seen, had a long lasting light and could even be used to keep workers warm if grouped together. Although lantern and globe styles have many variations, collectors have grouped them as following:



**Fixed Globe Lanterns** These were the earliest manufactured lanterns and received their name because the globe was cemented to the frame and could not easily be removed. Primarily produced in the Northeast by many small, local manufacturers, there was little standardization in design. They were most popular during the Civil War era but were manufactured for another ten to twenty years after the war.

**Tall-Globe Lanterns** The first tall-globe lantern was produced in 1865. 5 3/8" – 6" tall and with a removable globe, these lanterns were convenient to use and well suited for the popular fuel of the time, signal oil. Tall-globe lanterns were popular from the 1870s till WWI.



**Short-Globe Lanterns** National priorities during WWI forced the switch from signal oil to kerosene which led to the development of short-globe lanterns. 3 1/4" – 4 1/2" in height, they had a small burning chamber suited for use with kerosene. Lighter, more portable, and easy to use, they retained their popularity up until the early 1970s

**Conductors' Lanterns – Presentation Lanterns** These lanterns were used by the conductor and also sometimes awarded to individuals. The lanterns were more ornate, often nickel or brass plated with delicate designs, denoting the status of the conductor.



**Inspectors' Lanterns** Unique in design and utilitarian, they were usually made of sheet metal construction with a reflecting surface to focus the light in one direction.

## Globe Size and Shape

For most lanterns, globe size and shape are distinguishing features. Lantern globes came in a number of different shapes: barrel, pear or the #39 globe, symmetrical. Fresnel globes were short with special ridges to intensify the light beam.





**Hal Montano is our Volunteer of The Year for 2013 with Superintendents Kim Baker and Dana Jones**



**Volunteers David Tadlock, Leroy Bushart and Stephanie Tadlock receiving the Outstanding Service Award for 2013**



**Dieter & Jeannie Teschke Awarded Railtown's Rookie(s) of the Year for 2013**



**Janet Montano, Jerry Tannhauser, Natalie Stier and John Stier receiving the special Above & Beyond Award recognition**



**David & Karen Ethier ukulele masters!**



**Staff members Ryan, Danny, Lisa, Norm, Phil and Rob having too much fun!**



**A colorful event! With Alexa Melville, Ann Pierson, Laverne Coon and Karen Ethier**



New staff member Norm Comer working on the No 28



The hot Chocolate Ladies at the Sonora Christmas Train Event  
From left to right: Joan, Nancy, Nancy, Janet, Linda and Dottie



Thursday lunch gals from left to right: Joan, Marge, Wilma, Carol, Dottie, Linda and Natalie



Warren, Jeannie, Laverne and Ken at the Sonora Christmas Train Event



Santa's well dressed Elves



Have You Met Kristi Darby?  
Admin & Purchasing Support



Machinist Tony Stroud in the Tri-Dam



David Ethier checking up on our patient



Work continues on the Roundhouse doors with Marty, Gary and Karl

## Here's A Schedule of Upcoming 2014 Training Dates:

- Saturday, February 8:** New Volunteer Open House (Carriage Room) 9am-1pm
- Saturday, February 15:** Roundhouse Day, 10am-2pm, (Open to the public)
- Saturday, February 22: All Hands Meeting** , 9am-1pm ( Carpenter's Shop at the Tri-Dam))
- Saturday, March 1:** 'Telling The Railtown Story' series, 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)  
 Topics: 'History of The Movie Railroad' w/ Bob Gibson,  
 'History of The Sierra Railway' w/ Dave Connery plus a model tour
- Thursday, March 6:** Maintenance & Shop Safety **All Hands Meeting 1pm** (Carpenter's Shop)
- Saturday, March 8:** 'Telling The Railtown Story' series, 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)  
 Topics: 'How Steam Locomotives Work' w/ David & Stephanie Tadlock  
 "Basic Interpretation' w/ Phil Sexton (State Interpreter III)  
 "A Model Tour' with Railtown Tour Guide Walt Pierson
- Saturday, March 15:** 'Telling The Railtown Story' series, 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)  
 Topics: 'The Building of A Railroad Empire' w/ David Winslow (tentative)  
 'Exciting Storytelling' with award winning storyteller BZ Smith  
 'A Model Tour' with Park Superintendent Kim Baker
- Saturday, March 22:** GCOR Class (8:30am-5pm Carpenter's Shop) (required for engine crew)
- Sunday, March 23:** GCOR Class (8:30am-5pm Carpenter's Shop) (required for engine crew)
- Saturday, March 29:** Car Host Training & Pre Season Practice Day 9am-3pm (Carriage Room)  
 With instructors Dave Connery, Bob Gibson, Dieter Teschke and Tommy Johnson
- Saturday, April 5:** Excursion Train season begins
- Saturday, April 12:** Fire Patrol Class (Carpenter's Shop in the Tri-Dam Building)
- Saturday, April 19:** Fire Patrol Class (repeat)

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### Color

Lantern colors communicated specific messages to railroad crews.

**Red:** STOP

Early red globes had a red coating applied (flashed) to a clear glass globe as the quality of red glass produced at the time did not meet railroad standards. By the 1900s, technology has advance to the point that a solid red globe was produced. These are the most common globes/lanterns found today

**Yellow:** PROCEED AT A REDUCED RATE and other uses as specified in regulations.

**Green:** PROCEED

These globes sometimes looked aqua or light blue when not lit, but the yellow flame produced by the burning fuel made them appear green to an observer.

**White:** FLAG STOP

These lanterns were used to flag a train down to stop at a station along the route. Over the years, some of the older globes have developed a yellowish cast due to material in the glass. However, true yellow globes are amber to orange in color.

**Blue:** A blue signal was displayed at one or both ends of a locomotive, car, or train to indicate that workmen were under or near the train.

**Purple:** STOP

A purple lantern indicated a siding derailment. True purple globes are extremely rare. Clear glass globes sometimes turned purple due to the high manganese content in the glass prior to WWI.

Today, old lanterns are considered very collectable, a reminder of long gone days when railroads played an important role in the transportation and growth of America.

(article submitted by Interpretive Specialist Karen King)



**PO Box 1250**  
**Jamestown, CA 95327**  
**Return Service Requested**

**TO:**



**Depot Store-** (209) 984-3953  
**Volunteer Desk-** (209) 984-4408  
**Volunteer Website-** <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers>  
**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)  
**Newsletter Editor—** [Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Dave.Rainwater@parks.ca.gov)  
**Crew Caboose-** (209) 984-0352



**Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

*(all area codes are 209)*

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