



# The TURNTABLE

June 2012

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

## Upcoming Events

### June 5

Ladies Luncheon @  
Papa's Roost, 11:30am  
Call Marge @ 533-4595

### June 5

Election day, don't forget to  
vote!

### June 9

Spotlight On Railtown!  
Tuolumne County Rotary  
Clubs join together in an  
Exciting fundraiser event  
For our Park 6-9pm

### June 13

Volunteer field trip to the  
Sacramento Railroad Mu-  
seum and shops with a  
special Old Sacramento  
Underground tour! Call Dave  
@ 984-4408

### June 17

Father's Day. Candy,  
balloons and on board  
entertainment for Dad!

### July 3

Ladies luncheon @  
Cover's Apple Ranch 11:30a  
Call Marge@ 533-4595

### July 4

Wednesday Celebration with  
Sequoia entertaining from  
1-3pm , No. 3 Excursion  
rides with Dave Rainwater  
entertaining

### July 21

Mark Twain train with  
Pat Kaunert as Mr Twain  
and Western Fiddler Dave  
Rainwater starts at 4pm

### August 4

Mark your calendars for the  
3rd Annual Singing Rails  
Festival. Headlined by folk  
music legend Mary McCaslin



The No.3 and 7 at upper Campo Seco Road. Taken by Kevin Zimmerman on May 16 during the Amgen Bicycle Tour, this is our pick for our first Photo of The Month. Each month we'd like to feature a photo taken by either a volunteer or staff member. Please submit your jpg's to Dave at [darainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov) for consideration

## **Superintendent's Message**

I haven't had a chance to thank all of you personally, yet, but I wanted to thank everyone for all of their efforts on the Amgen Train. Our numbers weren't what we'd hoped, so many of you received phone calls releasing you from your commitment, but we still want to thank you for being available and willing to lend a hand! The event was a good thing for the community, and we received thousands of dollars of free publicity, a brief glimpse on NBC sports, but lots of mileage on social media, making all of the efforts worth it.

Congratulations are in order for the Roundhouse door crew! The second set of doors has been completed, and they look great! We know it's been a lot of work and puzzle solving along the way. Great job!

Congratulations are also in order for Dave Tadlock, who promoted to Engineer in May. We anticipate a few more promotions to student fireman and conductor in the next few months. Thanks also to the senior members of the crew who are working hard acting as trainers. Thanks to Anthony LaNotte, Carl Rudolph, Craig Konklin and Craig Peterson for conducting not one, but two, trainings for our fire patrol operators. For many fire patrol operators, this is the first step in the engine crew promotion process—and a thorough (continued on page 2)

(from page 1) ground work is so important. Thanks for all of your hard work in making this happen.

National Train Day was a great success, thanks to Ron White (who kept bugging me until I signed us up, and acted as site coordinator), Dave Connery, Michelle Aartman, etc. It turned out to be a very busy day, and some wide-spread publicity was generated out of the event, which should help us get our name out there and benefit us in the future.

Perhaps by the time you read this there will be news on the status of the proposed closure. As of this writing, we are still waiting to see if several efforts to keep the park open are successful. One of those efforts is the "Spotlight on Railtown" event, scheduled for June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is a very different event than we have ever done it the past—all centered around the roundhouse, with a train ride at the end. We need lots of volunteers to assist as monitors in the roundhouse from 5:30-7:30 on this evening, to ensure safety of the public and the artifacts. Please let Dave know if you are available to volunteer. If you'd prefer to support the park by attending, tickets are \$50 and are available at the depot store. We also need help on the cars, and preparing for the event. Our final planning meeting is Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, and we'll have a "Dress Rehearsal" with the speeders and turntable on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. Lots of work is also being done to clean and organize the roundhouse and make the area ship-shape. Of course, hands are always needed after the event to put everything back into place.

Thanks for being a part of such a great team!

Kim

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#### **Up-Date on "Bells and Whistles"** (from Dave Connery)

One day in late April, Bob Ide and I were talking with a visitor from the United Kingdom and asked him if he had ever heard of the grade crossing signal (two longs, a short and a long – the letter "Q" in Morse Code) being used to indicate the Queen being on board a train, and he confessed he had never heard of such. Upon return home across the "pond" he did some research and has reported that apparently ships, when entering ports particularly in Canada but also other Commonwealth countries, did blast a "Q" on their whistle to signify if the Queen was on board. So this may be where the "urban legend" started and while apparently it has never been used as such in the UK itself, the signal may have begun being used in Canada at highway crossings.

Another "fact" heard on board our trains is that the yellow caboose on the Roger's property was the one used in The Runaway Caboose episode on "Little House on the Prairie". The caboose used in this TV show was actually our own No 7. You can review this particular show at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-JajYaf47W8> thanks to Michael Ninneman, one of our Junior Volunteers. It would be great if someone developed some complete information on the history of the yellow caboose #8 we could use while interpreting on the train. I'll bet the Rogers family could help with this.

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#### **Up-Date from Jeanette Rogers about the No 8 Caboose** (from Dave Rainwater)

I spoke with Jeanette and here was her answer sent by email: "The issue date on the side of the caboose shows 1947, so that was when she was built. She was originally Southern Pacific stock. We believe that Sierra acquired her in 1961 or 1962 and the caboose was used regularly from Oakdale to Sonora until the later 1980s. She was sidetracked for about a year at Railtown and purchased from the State by Ron Peterson, a docent engineer from Modesto. His plan was to renovate #8 to use as sleeping quarters during his weekend work on the excursion trains; however, state regulations prohibited his keeping it at the track in Railtown and the City of Modesto would not allow rolling stock in his neighborhood. Dick bought #8 from Ron in or around the summer of 1987, we trucked her to our property with the help of neighbors and friends and she has maintained her place in our yard ever since. We were able to secure some original Sierra Railroad track from the Angels Camp line which is what she rests on today. Our son, Chris was about 10 when we purchased the caboose and we enjoyed many a lively birthday party event each year when she literally 'rocked' on the tracks all night!"

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### Volunteer of The Month—Belva Bristol

When new visitors arrive at Railtown they expect to see trains, ride trains and get a sense of railroad history. They are first greeted by our helpful depot store staff and volunteers who sell excursion ride tickets on weekends. Our Volunteer of The Month is Belva Bristol, who always has a pleasant smile and quiet disposition. Belva first came to Railtown in 2002 as an ‘unofficial’ volunteer, often working with Virginia Stamm and Natalie Stier with the Christmas boutique or ice cream socials. “It was a nice change of environment and a chance to get out of the doldrums.” After 12 years, Belva is a two time cancer survivor and is happy to say she’s in remission. She returned to us as an official volunteer in 2011 and loves to help at the ticket window on weekends. A native of Calaveras County she has a long career in office administrative work. She has two lovely daughters and enjoys kayaking, hiking and snowshoeing. She has also volunteered at the Copperopolis Elementary, Community Center and Fire Department. Her home is in Copperopolis where she raises 32 fine bug eating hens, and gives away eggs to friends and family. From all of us, we’d like to say *Thank you Belva!*

### We’re taking the Show on the Road!—Volunteers Wanted

As part of our grass-roots marketing campaign and membership-drive, we have a new trade show booth! This booth consists of a 10 x 10 custom “EZ Up” tent with two roll up “banner stands”, a small table and two new director’s chairs. It is designed to be easy to transport and set up, and it looks great! All we need now is YOU. Even with the most beautiful display, it’s all about the person to person contact. Our first scheduled engagement is at the Father’s Day Fly-in in Columbia.

We are also looking for other venues to schedule. Is there a farmer’s market or other event in your community that you would be willing to staff with this new booth? We can show you how to set it up and help recruit other volunteers to assist you.

*Kimberly M. Baker*

(continued from page 2) We have maintained all of the original interior, including seats, sink, bathroom, desk and added a small area of red brick in the center to place a woodstove we found identical to the original, which had been removed at some point. We repainted her our first year of ownership and finding the right yellow was no easy task. She is ready for another face lift, as you can see. Dick houses his LGB and G scale railroad stock and over the years has constructed a line of track which goes around the interior with two bridges in the front and back and tunnels through both areas in the cupola. That is an ongoing project, as is finding vintage accessories to complete her interior and exterior.

I believe that No 8 is featured in some late episodes of Little House on The Prairie, although it isn’t period, so they may have ‘masked’ her. I am not certain but she may have has a bit part in the movie ‘Bound For Glory’, a film about Woody Guthrie, but I am sure she has seen some film time through the years. She is featured in the books ‘The Railroad Caboose’, ‘Sierra Railroad’, ‘Sierra Railway’ and ‘Movie Railroads’. Sorry we can’t give you more history. I know that Dick would know more about it but his communication is limited, so you’ll have to rely on this ‘amateur’.

Best Wishes

*Jeanette Rogers*

(thank you Jeanette for providing a little more information for our Car Hosts and staff!)



**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: [RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov](mailto:RailtownNews@parks.ca.gov) or [darainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov)  
(all area codes are 209)*

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<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 Smithson</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-3119	<a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>
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<b>Danny Taylor</b> , Park Maintenance Assistant	984-3115	<a href="mailto:dtaylor@parks.ca.gov">dtaylor@parks.ca.gov</a>
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<b>Ron White</b> , Stationmaster and Asst. Crew Caller for Car Hosts	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>
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