



March 2016

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

Upcoming Events

March 1 (same as last month)
Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ My Garden Café
(next to the Aladdin Hotel)
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

March 5
“Telling the Railtown Story”
Sessions from 9am-2pm
Meet in the Carriage Room

March 12
“Telling the Railtown Story”
Sessions from 9am-3pm
Meet in the Carriage Room

March 12
GCOR Training
8am-5pm Jamestown
Community Hall

March 13
GCOR Training
8am-5pm
Jamestown Community
Hall

March 19
“Telling the Railtown Story”
Sessions from 9am-2pm
Meet in the Carriage Room

March 26
Car Host Training
Meet in the Carriage Room
*NOTE: Two trains sched-
uled at 11:15am and 2pm

April 2 & 3
Excursion season begins!
Everyone rides free
Entertainment TBA

April 5
Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ Sonora Oaks
Cafe

at the Best Western Hotel
Call Dottie @ 533-8483

April 9
Wildflower Trains

April 16
Wildflower Trains

May 14 & 15
Fire Patrol Class

Two New Events this Year (from Karen Kling)

On October 22, Railtown 1897 will be introducing a new event:



Spooky Tales of the Roundhouse



The event involves leading visitors through the roundhouse and park after dark and having actors/volunteers portray different people who have died on the Sierra Railway. We want to do this in a way that is both respectful to those who died, but also entertaining. I have been doing a bit of research and gathering information on some of the fatal incidents and hope to be able to write up a short “biography” of the people involved, taking some artistic liberty to pad the stories. The actors can then take that information and run with it.

Besides five or six actors, we will also need tour guides. I am gathering some background information about RR superstitions and such so that the guides have something to talk about as an introduction. I know a few staff, volunteers and visitors have had some interesting experiences while in the roundhouse. If anyone has had an experience they would like to share with me, I would love to be able to use it as introduction material for the tour guides. Your name will not be used, just the experience.

I am in the beginning stages of planning this event and any input would be appreciated. I have some ideas about using a fog machine or dry ice for atmosphere and maybe some interesting lighting in a few places, but haven’t gotten much beyond these initial ideas.

As I will be working only 1 – 2 days a week at the park, I need to get on this project now, so I am hoping you will consider working the event and/or sharing your experiences.



Another event coming up much sooner is a **dog day at the park** (no name yet). Alexa came up with this fun idea to have a dog-themed event. We have chosen May 28th as it shouldn’t be too hot for the dogs (cross your fingers), it is over Memorial Weekend, AND there are no other events planned in the community on that day (so far). The foundation has approved the event and we will soon be contacting the various rescue organizations and dog-oriented businesses in the area to see if they would like to have a booth or table.

Besides the booths, we hope to have food and beverages available and some fun games and activities for dogs and kids. It should be a day of tail-wagging good fun. I will have more information soon, but if you would like to help out that day, please let me know. There will be some set up and take down plus activity booths that will need volunteer help.

(you can email Karen at: Karen.kling@parks.ca.gov)



Training Sessions

Thank all of you who have joined us so far for our annual pre-season training. All are designed to equip you with knowledge and interpretive skills in order to serve our visitors. This year we will be emphasizing the importance of aligning our interpretation to the Interpretive Master Plan. Kathy Shulz gave us a great introduction to the IMP. For those who couldn't attend, we will soon have a DVD of the session so you can catch up. For those volunteers giving tours whether during the week or on weekends, please keep in mind, any tour should be no more than one hour. Here are the remaining sessions and presenters:

Saturday, March 5 "Telling the Railtown Story"

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
9:am-10:20am Carriage Room	Costuming at Railtown	Janet Montano Jeannie Teschke/ Karen McMahon	Learn about all the costuming at Railtown: Car Hosts, Tour Guides, Roundhouse Hosts, Greeters, period ladies dress and gentlemen's attire
10:20-10:30am	BREAK		
10:30-Noon Carriage Room	Greeting & Deck Interpretation	Nancy Bull & Christine White Volunteer Interpreters	
Noon-1pm	LUNCH		
1pm-2pm Carriage Room	Introduction to the Junior Ranger Program	Joe Yonan Volunteer & Jr. Ranger Interpreter	California State Parks sponsors a statewide junior ranger program. Learn about the program and how it is presented to young folks

Saturday, March 12 "Telling the Railtown Story"

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
10am-Noon	The History of Jamestown	Joes Sparagna/ Volunteer & local historian	
Noon-1pm	Lunch		
1pm-2pm Carriage Room	Historic Facts & Writings Related To the Sierra Railway	Karen Kling/ Interpretive Specialist	

Saturday, March 12 General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR)

Time/ Location	Session	Presenter	Description
8am-5pm Jamestown Community Hall	General Code of Operating Rules Classroom	Mike Edwards RR Consultant and former manager of train operations Sierra Northern	Lunch will be Noon-1pm

Sunday, March 13 GCOR

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
8am-5pm Jamestown Com-	Airbrake & Train Handling	Wayne Penn RR Consultant	Lunch will be Noon-1pm

Saturday, March 19 "Telling the Railtown Story"

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
9:am-10:20am	Interpreting as a Car Host	Dave Connery Car Host Instructor local historian	
10:20-10:30am	BREAK		
10:30-Noon	Interpreting as a Tour Guide	Dave Connery	
Noon-1pm	LUNCH		
1pm-3pm	How to Give a Model Walking Tour	Dave Connery	

Saturday, March 26 Car Host Onboard Training

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
9:am-10:30am	The Role of The Car Host Working with the Stationmaster	Dave Connery Ron White (Stationmaster)	Review of the duties and Duty statement of the Car
10:30-10:45am	BREAK		
10:45-11:15am	Car Host Operational Duties	Dave Connery	Passenger Boarding, Working with Wheel Chair Visitors, Safety Proce-
11:15am 1pm	Train Trip to Rock Quarry & Back (Note: Bring a Bag Lunch for the train ride)	Dave Connery	On board interpretation, stories, duties
2pm-3pm	Pre-Season Excursion Train w/ guests	Let's get started Car Hosting!	Hands on operation & interpreting with Pre-season passengers

Saturday, May 14 Fire Patrol Class

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
8am-5pm Meet at the Tri-Dam Shop	Fire Patrol Class	Anthony LaNotte	Lunch Noon-1pm

Sunday, May 15 Fire Patrol Class

Time/Location	Session	Presenter	Description
8am-5pm	Fire Patrol Class	Anthony LaNotte	Lunch Noon-1pm



The 2016 Brakeman's Academy was conducted over a period of 7 days. Alex Sharp and Michael Bispo led the instruction with help from Tommy Johnson and Mike McReynolds. Attending this year: (back row from left to right: Matt Allen, Eric Nielsen, Mike Tindall, Trevor Chung, Al Tunsen), (middle row from left to right: Dieter Teschke, Chris Henningsen, Warren Zimmerman, Barbara Roehrick, Greg Romelfanger, Paul McNaul), (front row left to right: Michael Bispo, Tommy Johnson, Alex Sharp and Mike McReynolds)

Meet Sam Mello, Program Manager from the California State Railroad Museum Foundation. Sam will be here on Thursdays and helping as a liaison between the community and special events that relate to Railtown.



PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



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



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



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209, except where noted)

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