



May 2016

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

Upcoming Events

May 3

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

May 6

Special school day train
rides and demonstrations

May 8

Mother's Day

May 10

Behind the Scenes Tour
with Dieter Tescke, 10am
in the Carriage Room

May 14 & 15

Two days of Fire Patrol
class with Anthony LaNotte
(required for all Fire Patrol
volunteers)(@ Tri-Dam

May 28, 29 & 30

Memorial Day weekend
trains also on Monday

June 7

Railtown Ladies Luncheon
11:30 @ Cover's Apple
Ranch
call Dottie @ 533-8483

June 14

Behind the Scenes Tour
with Dieter Teschke, 10am
in the Carriage Room

June 19

Father's Day

July 2, 3 & 4

4th of July trains

July 8

Trains begin every
Wednesday in July and
August, *ALSO Story Time
in the Little Red Caboose

July 30

Rods to Rails Event

August 20

Meals on Wheels Event

***NOTE:** We are looking for
volunteers willing to help
on Thursday's preparing the
noon lunch for the mainte-
nance volunteers. If inter-
ested call Dottie Bolander

Thematic Examples from the Interpretive

Master Plan for Railtown 1897 State Historic Park

This month we want to begin presenting some of the themes presented in our interpretive plan. There are any number of thematic approaches you may take. Our hope is that you may find one that works for you and your own presentation.

Primary Theme : With its operational rail yard, Railtown 1897 State Historic Park allows visitors to experience and observe the operation of historic equipment and learn the skills necessary to keep a short-line railroad running not only in the past but also today.

Supporting Themes

1. Railtown preserves some of the last remaining steam locomotives and railroad cars that were adapted for the challenges of short-line, mountain railroading.
2. The Railtown yard, with its operational maintenance facilities, brings to life the sights, sounds, and risks of operating a railroad.
3. The trains, tools, and buildings at Railtown 1897 SHP are not arrested in time, but function as an integrated operating site, with a sometimes unpolished, distinctive character that lends authenticity to the rail yard setting.
4. Railtown 1897 SHP is a living site where people continue to practice the skills and preserve the knowledge necessary to run a railroad and service its trains.
5. When the film industry came to Sierra Railway and its Jamestown shops, it not only contributed to the company's survival but also brought new elements to the historic site.
6. Railtown 1897 SHP offers an opportunity to learn about and apply best practices in historic preservation.
7. The roundhouse at the Sierra Railway site in Jamestown is the last remaining still operating steam locomotive roundhouse in North America which still retains its original facilities, tools, and equipment.



Hello Volunteers,



I began working as a park aid and volunteer coordinator in January of 2009. One of my duties has been the editor of our monthly newsletter. I have endeavored to keep you informed and updated on park activities not only with the Turntable but also with the weekly emails. Since 2009, many issues have very informative articles provided by various staff and volunteers. Most subjects are directly related to our Sierra Railway history and also improving interpretive skills. Below is an index to key articles that you may wish to re-visit. Most of the back issues can be found by going to our volunteer website: <http://railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers> and

clicking on the newsletter tab. If you can't find the issue you're looking for, let me know and I'll be glad to print you a copy from my files. I hope you will take advantage of this valuable resource! Also, I am always looking for articles and contributions to the newsletter. Contact me if you have something you'd like to submit. Thanks!

February 2009

Hidden Treasure On Gus' Special (by Dave Tadlock)

Depot Difficulty—Union Democrat September 19, 1903 (by Craig Konklin)

April 2009

Back Track—Railtown In History—A Runaway Train on the Sierra Railway Track Kills Two Women (by Craig Konklin)

Heisler Number 9—Was It a Jinxed Locomotive? (by Dave Tadlock)

May 2009

Back Track—Railtown In History—Sierra Railway Property Burned (by Craig Konklin)

June 2009

Interesting Items—From The Narrow Gauge Website (by Tom Bispo)

July 2009

Back Backtrack—Railtown in History—Fire Destroys Nevills Hotel (reprinted from Union Democrat)

October 2009

Ghosts In The Roundhouse (by Dave Rainwater)

March 2010

Preserving The Best of The Past for the Future (by Lisa DeLacy/Curator)

July 2010

A Trip Through History on the Virginia & Truckee Railway (by Ken Vogel)

August 2010

Train History Inspires Songs and American Folklore (by Dave Rainwater)

October 2010

Interpreting Railtown To a Wide and Varied Audience (submitted by Kim Baker)

May 2011

Memoirs of An Old Time "Door Slammer" (excerpted from SP Pages)

June 2011

The Shay Mystique (by David Tadlock)

July 2011

Velocipede Hand-Cars (by Kim Baker)

The Pelton Water Wheel (by Dave Connery)

August 2011

The Yosemite Short Line Railway & Race For Tourism (by Joe Sparagna)

September 2011

Branches of The Sierra Railway—Part 1 (by Dave Connery)

October 2011

Branches of The Sierra—Part 2 (by Dave Connery)

The Tri-Dam Project (by Kyle Wyatt)

November 2011

A Little Known Bit of Railroad History (by Dave Connery)

February 2012

14 Characteristics of A Good Tour Guide (by Dave Rainwater)

March 2012

Railtown's Side Dump Car Collection (by Kyle Wyatt)

April 2012

The Sierra Railroad's Angel Branch (by Dave Connery)

Hostling or Bringing the Locomotive to Life (by Dave Tadlock)

May 2012

"All The Bells & Whistles...." (by Dave Connery)

June 2012

Up-Date on "Bells & Whistles (by Dave Connery)

Jeanette Rogers Talks About The No. 8 Caboose

July 2012

Interpreting The No. 34 Cab (by Dave Tadlock)

August 2012

The Fireman's Side of The Cab (by Dave Tadlock)

September 2012

Passenger Service on The Sierra Railway (by Dave Connery)

October 2012

The Iconic Jamestown Water Tank—Fact & Fable
by Kyle Wyatt and Kim Baker)

November 2012

Petticoat Junction (reprint from 'The Movie Railroads' by Larry Jensen)

March 2013

Warren C. Potts—A Parallel of Thomas Bullock (by Lisa DeLacy)

April 2013

For The Sierra Railroad, some construction has been 'Dam' good!
(by Dave Connery)

May 2013

The Fresno Scraper, Ancestor to the Bulldozer (by Dave Rainwater)

July 2013

The Women's Railroad, about Annie Kline Rickert (by Dave Connery)

August 2013

James Earl Taylor, The Man That Possibly Saved The Sierra

September 2013

Pioneering Railroad Women of the 1800's (Part 1) (by Karen Kling)

October 2013

Pioneering Railroad Women of thte 1800's (Part 2) (by Karen Kling)

November 2013

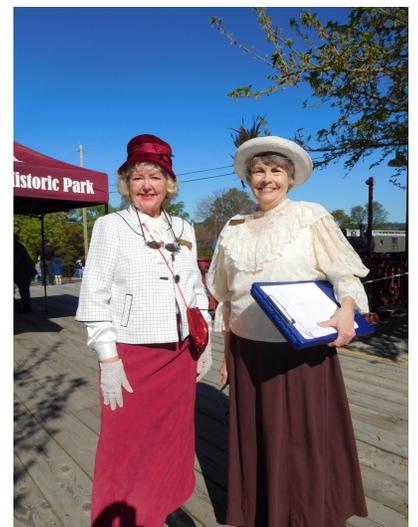
The Sierra Railroad Earns The Title 'The Movie Railroad'
(by Bob Gibson)



(left to right) Joe Sparagna, Dave Connery, Mike Comstock, Tom Pitta



(left to right) Audrey Munoz, Kathy Machado, Jeannie Teschke and Rosann Podesta (seated)



Patricia Icenogle & Nancy Johnson on opening day

December-January 2013-2014

Railtown and The Perishable Rush (by Dave Connery)

February 2014

An Article on Railroad Lanterns (by Karen Kling)

March 2014

A History of the Sierra Railway's No 3 (by Kyle Wyatt)

April 2014

A History of the Sierra Railway's No 3 (continued)

May 2014

The Geology of the Mother Lode & Table Mountain (by Karen Kling)

June 2014

The Sierra Railway and The Hetch Hetchy Dam (by Dave Connery)

July 2014

A Celebration of Sierra Railways Workers (by Karen Kling)
(plus a nice pictorial of all of Sierra Railway's locomotives)

August 2014

What the Heck is a Gandy Dancer? (by Karen Kling)

October 2014

Interpretation: Why Do We Do It? (source material)

November 2014

Interpretation: Why Do We Do It
(source material by Dave Rainwater)

December 2014

Defining Interpretation (source material)

January 2015

What Visitors Want from a Visit to a Historic Park (source material
by Dave Rainwater)

February 2015

Figuring The Speed of Railtown Locomotives (by David Tadlock)

March 2015

Does Your Interpretation Go Beyond Show & Tell?

April 2015

Connecting, Engaging & Inspiring Visitors (by Kim Baker)

May 2015

Interpreting Hatler's Rock Quarry (by Nancy Bull)

June 2015

Characteristics of A Good Tour Guide (source material)

August 2015

The Telegraph Essential Key to Running a Railroad (source material
by Karen Kling)

October 2015

Interpreting the No. 34 Cab (by David Tadlock)

January 2016

A Tuolumne County Trivia Quiz (by Karen Kling)

April 2016

Tour Guiding Basics (source material by Dave Rainwater)



Chris White at the interpreter's table



Linda Butler & Ann Pierson
in fine period dress



Al Lehr & George Sapp
have been at RT the longest!

The Interpreter's Creed

As an interpreter for California State Parks, I shall endeavor to:

- ▷ Know, understand and apply the best practices of interpretation
- ▷ Conduct evaluation of myself and my programs
- ▷ Continually strive to meet agency goals and objectives
- ▷ Stay current in the literature, techniques and skills of interpretation
- ▷ Conduct meaningful thematic interpretation
- ▷ Keep in touch with visitor's needs, goals and desires
- ▷ Make all of my presentations, programs, and displays relevant and enjoyable to visitors
- ▷ Create and conduct interpretation to protect and represent the inherent meanings in the resource
- ▷ Be a role model for environmental responsibility
- ▷ Strive to make interpretation universally accessible to all visitors
- ▷ Be approachable, kind, and respectful to visitors and colleagues
- ▷ Be a resource, mentor, and professional colleague for others
- ▷ Create and strive to meet personal yearly goals
- ▷ Continually rediscover and explore my park's resources



Joe Sparagna leading a tour



John Stier leading a school group tour
(May 2010)



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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, Tuolumne County Visitors Bureau, Edward Jones, Hurst Ranch, Robert E. Boyer Construction Inc., Kiwanis of Sonora



Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209, except where noted)

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Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request