



# The TURNTABLE

April 2010

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

## Important Dates

### April 17th

Final behind the scenes tour for the Sierra #3. Reservations essential.

### April 20th 1PM

School Train coordination meeting. If you are interested in working school days, please call Joyce 532-2931 (exception of engine crew, will be

### May 8th

Fire Patrol Training 9 AM to 4PM (Same presentation as March 27th). Fire Patrol shifts will be scheduled starting mid April.

### Ladies Luncheon

First Thursday of Every month. May 6th at Papa's New Roost. At Noon.

### July 2, 3 & 4

Premiere Event, The Return of The of #3! Mark the Date! All hands Needed.

## A Few Seasonal Reminders

### **Parking**

On the weekends, please leave the main lots for park visitors. Volunteers and staff should park in the Conlin Trucking lot (which is state park property—across the street), at the Tri-Dam, along the fence, or along the north side of the tracks. It is disheartening to see the upper lot half-full with paid and volunteer staff vehicles, and then watch park visitors struggle to unload families, strollers, etc and have to haul them down the road. Visitors are not aware they can park across the street, so please take those spots and help us provide the best public service we can.

### **Calling All Car Hosts**

The season is upon us and we are actively seeking all 'seasoned' and new volunteers who would enjoy riding the trains and interpreting Sierra Railway history. This year we are taking a more proactive stance in scheduling. In the past, it was just sign up whenever volunteers showed up. We anticipate a busier year for 2010, and would like to have our car hosts scheduled prior to each weekend. Yes, this is possible! Ron White will be assisting us in coordinating this task to make sure we have enough volunteers each weekend. You can sign up ahead of time in the crew caboose or call or email. You can call Ron at 209-551-7087 or his email: [rbar-ryw@att.net](mailto:rbar-ryw@att.net). Our volunteer number is 209-984-4408 or email Dave Rainwater at [darainwater@parks.ca.gov](mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov)



### **Interpretive Objects**

You may have seen our new "picnic" basket in the carriage room. Still under development, it contains pieces of coal, fuel oil, laminated photos and other hand-held objects you can use to start a conversation with visitors. How about giving a short demonstration of hand-signals, and then pointing them out as the engine crew does the run-around? Use your imagination, and there are many ways we can better engage our visitors and create a memorable visit.

## The Railtown Volunteer Library is there for you.

We have videos and books relating to railroad history in our very own volunteer library. It is currently located in the kitchen, just off the carriage room. The videos are all VHS so that may not work for those who can only play DVD's. But there are plenty of interesting books available, providing railroad history and interesting reading. Check out is simple. Just check with any staff at the volunteer desk, fill out a card with your name, phone number and date of check out. Enjoy.

## Thank You's

To Charlene McAndrews for cleaning the kitchen car on Mondays, Dave Connery for his Sierra Railway History presentation on our new volunteer orientation days, The Tadlocks with their 'Introduction To The Engine Crew' for new volunteers on our Orientation days. Ralph Minzlaff , Lowell Craft, Laverne Coon, presenting our park at the Home & Garden show, along with Mike and Shirley Rainwater, also Allan and Judy Nordstrom. Ron White and John Stier for their 'Introduction to Car Hosting' Darryl Bramlette and Leroy Bushart for their 'Introduction to Roundhouse Touring' David Deutsch leading a crew restoring and cleaning our Pullman cars, Anthony LaNotte hosting our fire patrol training class, Al Lehr for cleaning the pits, Wayne Penn for traveling all the way from San Diego to teach GCOR, Marge and the crew for preparing a great farewell BBQ for the crew, Jim Sutherland for singing the national anthem and bringing his flags, The Nordstroms (Dan, Judy and Allen) for giving the movie caboose a fantastic makeover, to "The Mystery Mechanic" and the secret crew, for showing up under the cover of darkness to make sure the #2 is still running. And Mike Warzee for painting the 1265- looks so much better! And Tony Stroud, who keeps showing up to crank out those fitted bolts. There are so many of you, we apologize for not including everyone. If you want to nominate someone for recognition (or even yourself), please let us know!



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Dottie Bolander, who has been nominated as Volunteer of the Year by Sierra Non-Profit Services. Charlene McAndrews, who submitted the nomination, says that she really appreciated Dottie taking her under her wing when she was a new docent last year, and when she heard of everything else Dottie has been involved with, she just knew that she needed to nominate her!

## Western Railway Museum Field Trip

There is still space available for the Western Railway Field Trip on Wednesday, June 2nd. Our Raitown volunteer Andy Alkema is also a volunteer there and has arranged a tour for us. Carpooling will be coordinated from Raitown and it is a whole-day event. Call the docent hotline or email Dave Rainwater (contact info on back of newsletter).



# Volunteer of the Month--David Deutsch

This month meet David Deutsch. Dave is currently heading up a crew that is restoring, cleaning and polishing our Pullman cars (the #12, #14, #15 and #599) in advance of our opening season. Dave was 21 when he moved to Tuolumne County from San Jose, where he grew up. He spent nearly 30 years in the construction trade and is a semi-retired building contractor. He has been a steady volunteer since 2002. He volunteers as a tour guide, stationmaster, fire patrolman and on the Tuesday maintenance and restoration crew. Married 47 years, he raised two children with his lovely wife Peggy. Their first love for the Sierra Railroad and Railtown was kindled, when they used to ride the dinner trains in the 70's, before it became a State Park. Dave says the best thing of all about Railtown is meeting and talking to people from all over the world. He often asks our visitors why they come to Jamestown. Their answer most often is that it is part of the old frontier, the old west and they wanted to see what it was like. Thank you David Deutsch our April Volunteer of the Month.



**March 27th**  
 We had a great pre-season turnout for our training run on March 27th & beautiful weather too!



### SIGN UP NOW!!! 4th of July Weekend-

All volunteers are needed! Please call today to sign up for your shift and duties, and be part of this historic weekend at Railtown. Call the docent hotline, or email. Operators are standing by.

### You Asked For it- State Parks Smoking Policy-

We have been asked by several folks lately about the department's smoking policy. For your reference here it is.

It is the intent of the Department to provide a work atmosphere free of tobacco use and its undesired effects. This policy is applicable to all Department facilities, vehicles, or other areas controlled by the Department, whether leased or owned, including space in buildings shared with other agencies or businesses. (This policy does not apply to occupants in State housing.)

#### Policy

- A. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe.
- B. Smoking is prohibited in all State-owned or leased buildings. This prohibition shall apply to any area enclosed by the perimeter (outermost) walls of the building. Atriums, balconies, stairwells, and other similar building features are to be considered "within a building."
- C. Specific outside smoking areas shall not be established and/or identified. Smoking shall not be permitted within 20 feet of doorways and ground-level air intake structures. Notwithstanding contract provisions, applicable rest period rules and governing law, including DPA Rule 599.780, "smoke breaks" in lieu of regular breaks or rest periods may be granted during the work shift. Productivity must be maintained at appropriate levels.
- D. Smoking shall be prohibited in all State-owned vehicles and mobile equipment, including passenger vehicles, light- and heavy-duty trucks, cargo and passenger vans, buses, and any other mobile equipment with an enclosed or enclosable driver/passenger compartment.
- E. Managers and supervisors are responsible for informing all employees in their charge of the Department's smoking policy, and of the counseling available to stop smoking.

Employees violating the policy will be subject to corrective action, and may be subject to adverse action for repeated violations, pursuant to Government Code Section 19572.

**Note:** At Railtown, smoking is also prohibited around the Freight Shed area, specifically, although this is also covered by state laws which now prohibit smoking within 20 feet of any building entry-way or window.

***Happy Birthday To:*** Nancy Bull, Rick Willson, Dave Connery, Greg Lawrence, John Rand, Mike Rainwater, Jackie Brunskill, Blair Abbott, Clifford Hughes, David Deutsch, Marge Lovingfoss, Joe Sparagna, Ken Vogel, Al Lehr



# Safety- A Constant Balancing Act

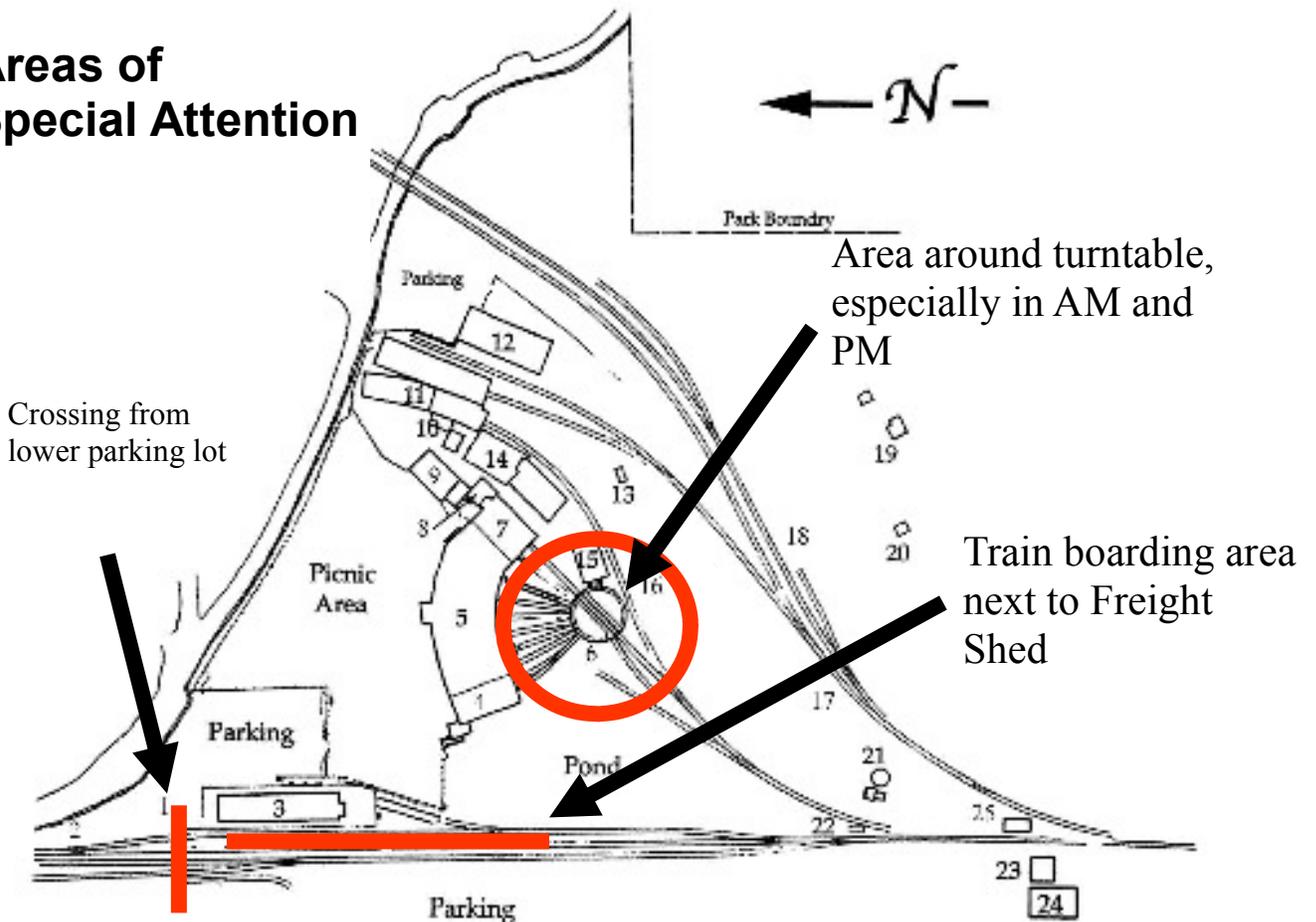
On Opening day, an excited visitor approached us to enthuse how much he appreciated that visitors were free to explore the rail yard, without being inundated by guardrails and signage. It was “refreshing, in this day and age”, he elaborated.

Keeping visitors safe while allowing access around active train operations is a balancing act, and we take it very seriously. You will notice that we have new, strategically placed signage at all of the yard entrance points. Of course, the threat of pain is a powerful deterrent, but for many visitors, this is their first time around a moving train, we have many small children and large numbers of people who can be unpredictable. The most important way to ensure safety, is with adequate staffing, oversight, and monitoring. As part of our effort to continually improve our processes, we will now be assigning volunteers to monitor the crossing from the lower parking lot, and the turntable area, as part of the morning meeting. All on-duty car hosts and greeters should be sure to check in with the station-master at 10am, and attend the meeting at 10:30 for final assignments for the day.

As monitors, your job is to guide visitors off of the tracks (especially where active operations are occurring), by assisting them in finding better locations to stand. At the crossing area, monitors are to hold pedestrian traffic while the engine run-around occurs, and to answer visitor questions.

The active operations of our historic shops are one of the most important resources we have to offer. With your help and awareness, we can continue to share these activities with the public.

## Areas of Special Attention





**RAILTOWN 1897**  
State Historic Park

**PO Box 1250**

**Jamestown, CA 95327**

**Return Service Requested**



**TO:**



**Docent Hotline-** (209)-984-4408

**Docent Site-** <http://Railtown.team.parks.ca.gov/volunteers/default.aspx>

**Railtown Blog-** [www.railtown1897.wordpress.com](http://www.railtown1897.wordpress.com)



**Railtown Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information**

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

<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>Kevin Zimmerman</b> , (DSLE)	557-0294	<a href="mailto:Kevin@obriensmarket.com">Kevin@obriensmarket.com</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> , Park Aid (and Docent Coordinator)	984-4408	<a href="mailto:darainwater@parks.ca.gov">darainwater@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Lisa Smithson</b> , State Park Curator I (DER)	984-8719	<a href="mailto:lsmithson@parks.ca.gov">lsmithson@parks.ca.gov</a>
<b>Ron White</b> , Crew Caller Car Hosts	551-7087	<a href="mailto:rbarryw@att.net">rbarryw@att.net</a>
<b>Dave Tadlock</b> , Crew Caller, Covered Service Employees	383-1353	<a href="mailto:1oldmotorman@comcast.net">1oldmotorman@comcast.net</a>

*Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request*