



The TURNTABLE

Nov/Dec 2009

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

Important Dates

Santa Express

November 27, 28, 29,
December 19 & 20

Santa's Starlight Express- Lighted Train

Saturday November 28
at 5:30 (additional at
6:30 if sold out)

Railtown Boutique

Traditional craft boutique in support of the park. November 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, December 19, 20 in the Carriage Room

December 3rd-

Railtown Ladies Potluck Luncheon 11:30 at the home of Wilma Bushart 588-9833. RSVP.

December 20th-after last train (5:30-ish)

Annual paid and volunteer staff Christmas potluck and gift exchange. 5:30 PM at Angelo's Hall in Columbia. bring a wrapped gift and a finger-food dish.

Mark the Dates!

January 16th-

Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner

January 30th- Continuing Docent Orientation 10-3 at Jamestown Community Hall. Required for continuing volunteers.

Park Update

Never a dull moment at Railtown. The "Little Park that Could" might be our new nickname. On **October 30th, the Sierra #3, and associated staff returned to Railtown**, and work started again in the Tri-Dam shop. The blog audience hit the 15,000 mark, indicating that a lot of people are watching this project's progress. The crew is working diligently to complete the tender, and get it out of the building. Volunteers with plumbing experience are sought to assist with the next phase of the project. Please see George or Kim if you have a couple of days a week you can spare for the #3.

A successful field trip to ride the El Dorado and tour the Sacramento shops, was well attended in October, inspiring the planning of new field trips in 2010.

The **new Railtown color brochures** have arrived, and are being distributed through the depot store and the visitor's bureau, and are also available on the website. Some familiar faces are highlighted!

To deal with the State's budget crisis, the Capital District has begun Monday closures at 5 park units, including Railtown. Some reductions are being made to seasonal and maintenance projects, but Railtown has been fortunate in the past few years that many projects have been funded and/or completed. This year, we have invested hundreds of thousands in hazmat clean up, we've completed the section house roof, and, of course, the Sierra No. 3 has consumed everyone's attention. Obviously, much more remains to be done, and paid and volunteer staff efforts are greatly appreciated.

The end of the operating season this year marks the end of Joe Bispo's tenure as our Asst. Railroad Operations Manager. Although he is retiring from this position, he will be staying on as a valued member of the engine crew. (continued on Page 2)

Railtown's Parade Corps- Seeking New Leadership

Railtown will be a presence at Sonora's Thanksgiving weekend parade, and the Twain Harte Christmas parade, as Gary and Linda Hosman bring their tenure in this position to close. Are you interested in learning the ropes and helping keep Railtown visible in the community? See Dave Rainwater, or talk to Gary any Tuesday work day.

Park Update (continued from page 1)

You may have noticed a new locomotive in the yard. **In October, the 612 was moved from the California State Railroad Museum** as a potential back-up locomotive to replace the 613. We owe a great deal of thanks to BNSF, Carl Bradley and UP for donating services and move. Volunteer Stan Eggink is also continuing to troubleshoot the 1265 diesel, another potential backup. Both of these diesels need new paint jobs prior to service, and the plan is for them to be painted black with aluminum detailing.

We are starting to plan volunteer training for 2010. Our best source of new volunteers is word of mouth, so be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to our Volunteer Open House on February 20th, so they can see what we do. New volunteer training will be offered in several orientation sessions this spring, combined with specific workshops.

We will be conducting a **Continuing Volunteer Orientation on Saturday, January 30th, from 10-3 at the Jamestown Community Hall**. This is new this year, and is required for all continuing Docents. This orientation will serve as an update for all operational changes for the 2010 season, and ensure that we have a smooth introduction to what will certainly be a very busy year. Master Interpreter Phil Sexton will also be offering a presentation on inspiring park visitors through interpretation.

If you are a member of the engine crew, or plan on joining in 2010, the **General Code of Operating Rules (GCOR) training will be on March 6th and 7th**. This is required training (and testing) for the engine crew.

We will be issuing just one newsletter for November/December, and one for January/February. Communication between newsletters will be made through our email list, and phone calls. Volunteer Coordinator Dave Rainwater is soliciting assistance with setting up a phone tree, and other administrative chores. We are also experimenting with a **new Work Request system for maintenance projects**. Completed project requests are on file next to the white board in the Tri-Dam. Feel free to browse through these if you have time and are looking for another way to contribute. Projects are submitted by paid and volunteer staff, and should be coordinated through Ryan or other park staff as indicated on the project request form.

In early December, watch your mailbox for your annual time report. Those volunteers who have remained active this year (96 hours or more), will receive invitations to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in January. Be sure to record your hours if you haven't been doing so!

Santa's Starlight Express, our new lighted Christmas Train on November 28th, is shaping up to be a successful new event at the park. Tickets are selling steadily. Many volunteers are involved in different aspects of this event, and on Tuesday, November 24th at 1:00, we'll have a final, group coordination meeting to address any loose ends. If you are not able to attend but will be involved, please touch base with Dave Rainwater that week.

As always, thank you so much for all you do for Railtown 1897 State Historic Park. **Like the little engine, "we think we can, we think we can", and somehow, with your help, we do!**

Kimberly Baker, Park Superintendent





Volunteers' Day Out!

On October 20th, 30 Railtown volunteers met in Sacramento for a ride on the 2902 (otherwise known as the "El Dorado"), and a special tour of the old Sacramento shops, including a visit to see the Railtown crew working on the Sierra #3!

It was interesting to compare the similarities and differences between the two operations, and many of you have commented on insights gained from the visit. We are researching possible field trips for 2010. Let us know if you have any suggestions!



Important Volunteer Dates for first half 2010

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	January 16
Ongoing Volunteer Orientation (Mandatory)	January 30, 10-3
New Volunteer Open House	Feb 20, 10-1
New Volunteer Orientation	February 27, 9-2:30
GCOR (engine crew, optional for fire chase)	March 6 & 7, 8:30-5:00
New Volunteer Orientation (repeat of Feb 27)	March 20, 9-2:30
Volunteer Workshops (Tour Guide, Car Host, Fire Chase)	March 27 th , 9-4
Opening weekend, debut of #3, grand hoopla	April 3rd & 4th
Easter (no egg hunt this year-too much already!)	April 4th
Wildflower Trains	April 17 and May 1
Volunteer Workshops (TBD)	May 8 th , 9-4
Mother's Day (Mom's ride free)	May 9th
School Trains (Wednesdays this year!!)	May 5, 12, 19, 26

All dates subject to change (but we'll try not to!)

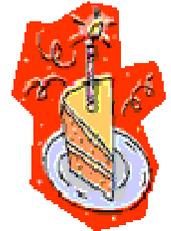


Thank yous go to this years Pumpkin Brigade volunteers, gathering three truck loads of pumpkins for our Harvest Haunt weekends. Pictured from left to right: Jim Mullin, David Deutsch, Dave Rainwater, Laverne Coon, Janet Hart, Dottie Bolander, Linda Bramlette and Jessica Davilla.

Birthdays

November

- 2 Jessica Davila,
- 5 Ron Jeske,
- 9 Mike Warzee,
- 20 Warren Smith
- 16 Wendell Cushman,
- 17 Kurt Anderson,
- 23 Charlene Ratzlaff, 27 Wilma Bushart, 29 Leroy Bushart



December

- 8 Ron Sloan, 11 Linda Hosman,
- 13 Dave Tadlock, 14 Ryan Richelson, 23 John Nichols, 23 Lowell Kraft, 12 Jerry Tannhauser



Volunteers of the Month- Mike and Shirley Rainwater

This month we'd like to give special thanks and recognition to husband and wife volunteers Mike and Shirley Rainwater. Mike and Shirley joined us this year during our new volunteer drive in March. Can we say enough about them? They have jumped in with both feet and have been enormously helpful in a variety of volunteer activities.

Shirley has been working at the depot store, helping to fill-in while Virginia and Lori have been away. She also volunteers as a Ticket Agent, a Tuesday lunch helper and Park Greeter. Asked what she loves best about Railtown, she says it is the 'sense of family we have and meeting so many fascinating people from all over.' Shirley is a native California girl from Lakewood and retired from the bank administration business. She met her husband Mike in Merced while studying anthropology. Mike was a public relations officer at the time, for the Merced County Sheriff's giving a presentation. Mike invited to her to lunch and the rest is history. They have a beautiful home in Long Barn. She is a member of the Rebekah's and Mike with the Odd Fellows.

Mike is originally from Klamath Falls, Oregon and retired after 22 years with the Merced County Sheriff's Department. He grew up around the railroad, with two grandfathers who both worked for SP. One an engineer, the other a Yardmaster in Klamath Falls. As a young lad, he started with Lionel train sets, switched to HO and now boasts of a fine back yard G-scale display. For Railtown he volunteers as a Car Host, Tour Guide and Tuesday maintenance worker. He recently volunteered to head up a committee that will explore and help produce a gondola car, and/or get the #11 car back on track. He also volunteered to head up a project replacing the rotten floor in the Master Mechanic's office.

From all of us, thank you Mike and Shirley!





RAILTOWN 1897
State Historic Park

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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



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Newsletter Available in Alternative Format on Request