



The TURNTABLE

September 2014

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

Upcoming Events

September 2, Tuesday

Ladies Luncheon 11:30am
The Home Place,
1210 Sanguinetti Rd. Sonora
Call Marge @ 533-4595

September 5, Friday

Polar Express Volunteer
Orientation Meeting, 6-8pm
Carriage Room

September 6, Saturday

Admissions Day Parade and
celebration at Columbia State
Park, sponsored by the Native
Sons of The Golden West
11am-5pm. Our volunteers will
be in the parade 11am-Noon

September 16 & 17

Annual Volunteer Field Trip to
Wilder Ranch State Historic
Park and the Roaring Camp
Railroad (Tuesday & Wed.)

September 20, Saturday

'Working on the Railroad'
A Celebration of Sierra Rail-
way Workers! 11am-3pm
The Black Irish Band will
Entertain 11am-2pm

In October

Harvest Haunt trains begin!
October 4,5,11,12,18,19,25,26

October 7, Tuesday

Ladies Luncheon TBA
Call Marge @ 533-4595

November 8, Saturday

Polar Express Training &
Rehearsal Day 9am-2pm

***NOTE:** There will be no trains
this year on Thanksgiving
Weekend, but we will have
demonstrations (belt shop)
and speeder rides

Message From Kim

I hope that you are all aware of the many improvements we made at the park last year, as a result of the donor and matching fund agreements under AB1478. We accomplished a great deal of deferred maintenance and projects big and small. Roundhouse windows, new equipment, deck improvements, lead abatement, repairs to the 2901, new diaphragms and curtains for rail cars, alarm system upgrades and cameras, upholstery for cars, new ice machine, porta potty contracts, new rainspouts, and on and on. The funding period ended in June, however there are a number of funded contracts that you should be aware of.

National Historic Landmark Nomination- The National Park Service division that approves NHLs is understandably picky. This is an exclusive classification, different that being on the National Registry (the more common designation). The nominating process is technical and the entire process can take as long as 10 years, due to backlogs, so we felt it was important to hire an experienced consultant to ensure this process flows smoothly and with continuity. The nomination is scheduled to be completed within a year, and then submitted to NPS where it will progress at their pace.

Historic Structures Reports- We have contracted for two HSRS; one for the Freight Shed, one for Car No. 2. When restoring, remodeling or maintaining historic structures, it is important to understand what you are working with. The preparation of an HSR, preservation architects analyze the history of a building and make recommendations for maintenance and planned changes. This type of document is essential to ensure that we maintain the history of the buildings, and isn't that what we are here for? A by product will be a readable document that provides historical information that will be helpful for interpretation. These should also be done within a year. We will then identify projects and costs to put in the pipeline for funding.

Interpretive Master Plan- The Interpretive Master Plan will probably have the biggest impact on volunteer operations of all of the pending contracts. This document will guide future interpretive programming. Because so much of our interpretation here is 'personal' (person-person), I expect implementation of the new plan to involve a lot of retraining, and program development, in addition to park signage and other static improvements. Periodically we will send out emails asking for review and input on the plan, and you will also be invited to our upcoming workshops on October 3rd & 5th.

Oil Water Separator- The roundhouse is coming into the modern-age—affluently speaking. A team has been working over the last year to design a drainage system to restore function to the historic pits, and (continue page 3)



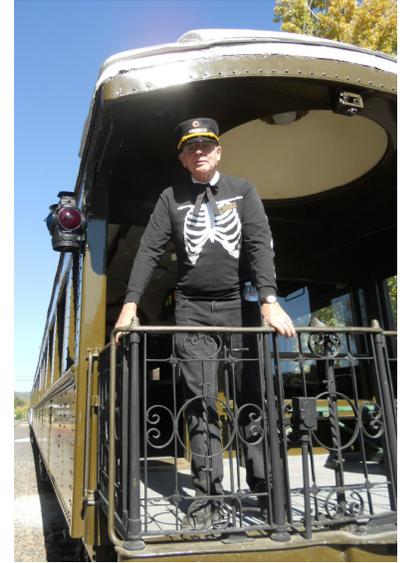
Park Superintendent Kim Baker



Volunteer Profiles: Steve Ralston

Almost every Sunday you can find Steve Ralston preparing our commuter cars for our guests at Railtown. Steve joined us for our training series in February of 2011 and quickly worked his way into being a car host. He was born and raised in San Francisco and is a fourth generation native. His great grandfather on one side of the family came from Scotland and established an iron worker business. His other great grandfather came during the California gold rush and worked mining in the Weaverville area. He met his wife Valerie in Washington DC, when they worked as civil rights lawyers. Now retired, Steve worked for the 37 years with the NAACP legal defense fund. He graduated from the UC Berkeley Law School in 1962. Steve is quick to say why he loves Car

Hosting, being a history major in school. "I love to talk and share our history, and it's interesting meeting so many people." In his off time he does a bit of writing, loves to hike the Sierra's with Valerie, works on home projects. He's also hoping to finish setting up his model 'N' gauge railroad. He's stayed with the 'N' gauge since it was convenient to have in a small apartment when he lived in New York. Thank you Steve for all your service!



Volunteer Field Trip To Visit the Wilder Ranch State Historic Park

Wilder Ranch is a California State Historic Park, with outstanding, well-developed interpretive programming. In the past few years they did a restoration of the historic Meder House, which was the house for the boarding workers. They also have an operating machine shop which was developed by their son, in the 1800s, who was an early Stanford engineering student. The shop operates by the use of a Pelton Wheel, which was very innovative at the time. The park puts on a number of events and interpretive programs to educate the public on these historic resources. Since we are working on major changes to improve our interpretive programming, it is very relevant to our park.



Wilder Ranch farm house



Roaring Camp steam train

Our field trip starts on Tuesday, September 16th. We will all leave around 9am. After stopping for a lunch break in Los Gatos, we will travel on the Wilder Ranch for a specially arranged tour at 2:30pm. We will also visit the Roaring Camp Railroad and riding the 'Redwood Forest Steam Train' on Wednesday, September 17th at 11am. Roaring Camp was named from the days it began as a wild and woolly lumberman's settlement. The narrow gauge railroad began hauling logs in 1875 and at least two of their locomotives were originally purchased from our own West Side Lumber Company (the 'Tuolumne' Heisler #2 and The 'Sonora' #7 three truck Shay). There's still time to join us if you'd like to go!

Railtown News

The Polar Express Event

Many of us are busy preparing for this event, Delta has provided a list of important dates, as we get closer to the event. Here they are:

Friday, September 5: Polar Express Volunteer Orientation

Where? The Carriage Room at Railtown @ 6pm

(this is an important meeting explaining all the activities of Polar Express. Tell your friends and family and anyone else interested in volunteering for this event

Monday, September 15: Volunteer availability forms due to Dave Rainwater

Friday, October 6: Volunteers and Staff ticket purchase day

Tuesday, October 7: Railtown Members Ticket Purchase Day

Wednesday, October 8: CSR Members Ticket Purchase Day

Thursday, October 9: Ticket Sales to the general public

Saturday, November 8: Volunteer Training & Rehearsal Day/ 9am-2pm

Saturday, November 22: Mechanical Test Run

Tuesday, December 2: Technical Rehearsal Run

Wednesday, December 3: Dress Rehearsal Run

Friday, December 5: OPENING NIGHT! Train Times are 4, 6 & 8pm (all days)

Saturday, December 6: 4, 6 & 8pm

Sunday, December 7: 4, 6 & 8pm

Friday, December 12: 4, 6 & 8pm

Saturday, December 13: 4, 6 & 8pm

Sunday, December 14: 4, 6 & 8pm

Friday, December 19: 4, 6 & 8pm

Saturday, December 20: 4, 6 & 8pm

Sunday, December 21: 4, 6 & 8pm

(Kim's message continued)

ensure we are being environmentally responsible. We anticipate a construction contract to go out to bid on this system in the fall. This is a major six-figure project.

Sierra No. 28—repairs continue, with anticipated completion by summer 2015. The crew has been working to fit and install the patch material to the fire box, which is the first stage in re-assembly. Work has been slower than anticipated, but continues at a steady pace. Once we are finished with this phase, we will be in territory we have covered before and we anticipate the pace picking up as we drill, tap and install stay bolts, and then tubes. If you are interested in volunteering (2 or more days a week) on this project, please let George know. And, then, of course, we have Polar Express. Buckle your seatbelts!





PO Box 1250
Jamestown, CA 95327
Return Service Requested

TO:



Depot Store- (209) 984-3953
Volunteer Desk- (209) 984-4408
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 Paid and Volunteer Staff Contact Information

(all area codes are 209)

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