

Snowshed

August, 2019

Volume 12 Number 2



News & Events

- ♦ **TDRS Annual Meeting and Picnic:** August 17th, starting at 3:00 PM.
- ♦ **Transcontinental Railroad 150th Anniversary Events:** Talks, tours, and other events are planned through Labor Day. More information at: <https://www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com/>
- ♦ **Truckee River Railroad:** Run dates 8/17, 8/31, 9/14, 11:00-2:00.

Contents

President's Letter, by Jerry Blackwill	1
Truckee River Railroad, by Bob Bell	1
New Museum of Truckee History, by Jim Hood	2
Fourth of July Parade, by Jerry Blackwill	2
TDRS Railyard Pocket Park Update, by Chip Huck	3

Presidents Letter

Jerry Blackwill

Join us for our celebration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad. So far, over 24 talks, walks, and other events have occurred with more to come. Two big events were the soft opening of the Museum of Truckee History and the 4th of July parade. The parade is described in another article in this newsletter. On May 10th, we celebrated the completion of the railroad by opening the new museum. Alongside Truckee Mayor Dave Tirman were officers of Truckee's railroad and historical societies. We are now working on the museum's permanent exhibits.

Over a dozen Golden Spike events are still scheduled leading up to a final picnic on August 31st. To find out more, go to Truckee.com and goldspike.org.

Plan on coming to our annual meeting on August 17th in the Truckee River Regional Park. The day will start at 11:00 AM with public rides on our Truckee River Railroad, and continue with a social hour at 3:00, the annual meeting at 4:00, and a picnic to follow. The picnic will be at the south end of the park near the corner of Old Brockway Road and Estates Drive.

See you at the meeting,

Jerry Blackwill

Truckee River Railroad

Bob Bell

The season's running at the Regional Park is in full operation for the Society's TRUCKEE RIVER RAILROAD miniature train. So far, we've averaged over 400 rides each run day plus a private run. Thanks much to our fantastic crew members mentioned in our last newsletter.

Our big project this year for our master construction manager, Tom Nixon, is the conversion of our storage container into an engine house and equipment storage facility. Bob Smith completed an exterior design and built a model of the engine house last winter. Tom Smith worked with Quick Space of Sparks, NV, this spring to install two rollup doors, a window and man-door into the container.

Continued on Page 3

Update on the New Museum of Truckee History

Jim Hood

The Truckee Donner Railroad Society and the Truckee Donner Historical Society have been working together on a project to build a Museum of Truckee History. A space has been leased at the east end of the Depot Building in downtown Truckee for the New Museum. We had a “soft opening” of the Museum on May 10th as part of the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad. Volunteers have started moving some exhibits into the new space and the New Museum is open on Truckee Thursdays to start building public interest. We will close at the end of summer and do a major build-out of the New Museum with the intent of having the Grand Opening in the summer of 2020. Our vision for the museum is a timeline of Life, Individuals, Industry, and Railroading in and around Truckee through the professional display of artifacts and exhibits, creation of documentary films, access to scheduled lectures, educational programs and research facilities.

The fund raising committee has been established and is starting to approach potential “Founding Donors”. After receiving commitments from the Founding Donors, general fund raising will commence including all of the existing members of the Truckee Donner Railroad Society.

Fourth of July Parade

Jerry Blackwill

Trains & the 150th Anniversary of the transcontinental railroad were the themes of Truckee’s 4th of July parade. The Railroad Society’s own Nelson Van Gundy was the Parade Grand Marshall and our float was the first in the parade. The float showed a re-enactment of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific railroads uniting at Promontory Summit, Utah in 1869. Re-enactors were Jim Hood as the Central Pacific’s Leland Stanford, Jerry Blackwill as the Union Pacific’s Thomas Durant, Ed Larson as the Union Pacific’s Grenville Dodge and the Historical Society’s Karl Pape as Central Pacific’s James Strobridge. The re-enactors used “gold” spikes and official-looking mallets to give an authentic look to the celebration.



The float was a joint effort of the Truckee Railroad and Historical Societies. Thanks go to Bill Sunnergen for the loan of his trailer, Carey Hood for driving their truck, and Bob Bell, Greg Zirbel, Dave & Judy Depuy and the re-enactors for their help in building the float.

TDRS Railyard Pocket Park Update

Chip Huck

In a previous newsletter, TDRS featured the new home for the Rotary Snowplow and Steam Crane. Today we are finalizing plans for perimeter fencing installation, and in late summer, we anticipate starting the aesthetic restoration of the Rotary. Members of our team have recently visited the rotary plow displays in Roseville and at the State Museum in Sacramento, and we are in contact with local contractors, volunteers, and Union Pacific to move the project forward.



TDRS Rotary in its Current State
Photo by Chip Huck



CA State RR Museum Rotary Aesthetically Restored

If you are interested in participating in the aesthetic restoration efforts, please email us at: tdrs.rollingstock@gmail.com. Current fundraising efforts and grant requests are underway. Please support the effort to restore the Rotary at: <https://www.gofundme.com/rotary-amp-crane-in-pocket-park>.

Truckee River Railroad (cont. from Page 1)

Bob Bell

The container has now been moved into position at the end of the trestle, and over the summer and into next year Tom Nixon and crew will complete a false roof structure, patio, and other details to simulate a classic engine house. Tom Smith plans to construct a transfer table, and elevated track inside the container for locomotive storage. The remainder of the container will continue to be used for storage of the TRR materials, track, and accessories.

Two other projects are now complete. The Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT), Community Projects, and Mountain Forge recently completed the installation of Bay Bridge steel into a canopy at our station. Last year Jim Schmidt and The Great Outdoor Landscape company completed the two long retaining walls on our lower track.

Thanks to all again, to all our members and the community, for your support and contributing to our success.

Bob Bell

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about railroading life and history in the Truckee region including its contribution to Truckee and the Nation. Specifically, depict railroad involvement in local industry through the acquisition, preservation, and restoration of relevant equipment, documents, and artifacts all to be part of a permanent museum facility in downtown Truckee.

Board of Directors:

Jerry Blackwill—President

Bob Bell—Executive Vice President/Treasurer

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy —
Historian

Ed Larson—Vice President,
Museum Operations

Dan Cobb—Strategic
Planning

Chip Huck

Greg Kuzma

Jim Hood

Carolyn Wallace Dee

Truckee Railroad Museum Vision:

Keeping Truckee railroads alive!

Railroads of the Truckee area played a significant role in founding and developing the town of Truckee. From the blasting of black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to the hissing of the first steam coming into town, to whistles of lumberjacks in the mountains, to the crack of ice being loaded in the reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, the Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

A place to Discover

A Place to Interact

A place to Enjoy

Truckee Donner Railroad Society
P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

Volunteer!

You can help TDRS and serve the community by volunteering for one of our projects or ongoing operations:

- ♦ Snowplow & Crane Restoration
- ♦ Truckee River Railroad Operations
- ♦ Museum Docent

Contact our volunteer manager volunteer_manager@truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com.

Donate!

You can also help by donating at our website, truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com, at the bottom of the home page.

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Truckee, Ca 96160