

# Snowshed

November, 2021

Volume 14 Number 3



## News & Events:

Truckee River Railroad Santa Train is planned for Saturday 12/4, 11 a.m.—2 p.m., weather permitting.

Truckee Railroad Museum (caboose) is open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Museum of Truckee History is open Fri, Sat, and Sun 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

See our Facebook page for details & updates.

## Contents:

**President's Letter,** 1  
by Jerry Blackwill

**Truckee River Railroad** 1  
by Bob Bell

**Hobert Southern Log Car** 2  
by Dan Cobb

**Pocket Park Update** 3  
By Chip Huck

## Presidents Letter

### Jerry Blackwill

The railroad society is anticipating a fun holiday season. This year we initiated the Truckee Santa Train, scheduled for Saturday, December 4th. The train runs on the same track as our summer runs, but Santa puts in an appearance for the children. Running the train for kids is always great fun for our train crews. The excitement and smiles energize us all.

This second pandemic year was better because we were able to both run the train through the Summer season and operate the railroad museum. Bob Bell, Tom Smith, Ed Larson and many other volunteers helped our trains to run and the museum to be open.

We're pleased to welcome Tom Smith as a new member of our board. Tom has helped develop the Truckee River Railroad to the popular ride it is today. And, his steam engine has greatly increased the enjoyment by both passengers and crew.

Happy holidays to all, and let's make next year a great time to get back to normal.

Jerry Blackwill,

## Truckee River Railroad

### By Bob Bell

The season's running at the Regional Park is over for the Society's TRUCKEE RIVER RAILROAD miniature train. We ended the season with 3,740 rides and that required 385 volunteer hours for the 13 run days that we accomplished. Thanks much to our fantastic crew members and those that helped out on several work days required to keep the RR up to running condition. Special thanks to Tom Smith for repairing our riding cars and generally keeping many things in peak running condition.

We have a local kids museum and education organization called The Kid's Zone. This organization has approved us to extend our track over to their new facility slated to open in 2025. Next year we plan to begin the neces-

## Truckee River Railroad (continued from Page 1)

sary detail survey work and begin the grading work to add approximately 1000 feet of track to their planned location behind the rodeo facility. Of course we will get as much volunteer help and business material donations for this project as we can, but we will need to raise at least \$15,000 to purchase the rail and ties and multiple switches and parts. If you are not familiar with the Kid Zone go to their website and check them out.

Tom Smith has also started the modular construction of our third car storage barn thanks to the donation of the lumber materials from Tahoe Truckee Lumber. The grading work was completed during several work days this summer. We still need several work days next year to complete the structure, build and install a switch, and extend the track into the barn. We have a list of other projects that need to be completed and please let me know if you can help out and take responsibility for completion of a project, with the help of other volunteers of course. Please step up if you want to get involved in a project or have a skill you would like to contribute (mental or physical).

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

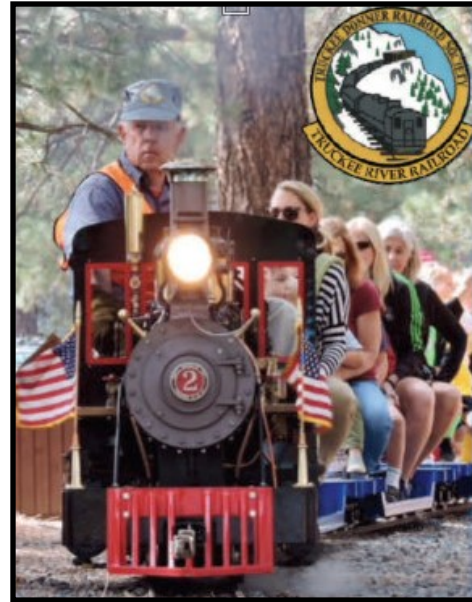
Bob Bell

## Hobart Southern Log Car

By Dan Cobb



One of Three Hobart Southern Log Cars at NSRM



Truckee River Railroad

The Nevada State Railroad Museum has three log cars from the Hobart Southern Railroad, and has offered one of them to the Society. The Hobart Southern was the standard-gauge short line that connected the Sierra Nevada Wood and Lumber Company operations at Hobart Mills with Truckee. It operated from 1878, when Hobart started logging operations north of Truckee, until 1936, when the Hobart mills closed. These log cars were most likely used to haul milled lumber from Hobart Mills to the Southern Pacific mainline at Truckee.

Continued on Page 3

## Hobart Southern Log Car (continued from page 2)

While there are several possible locations in Truckee where the log car could be displayed, the most likely option is the pocket park in the new Railyard development, alongside our crane and rotary snowplow.

As you can see from the photo on Page 2, the log cars are in poor condition, such that only the trucks and other metal parts are really salvageable. However, with some donated lumber and careful restoration, one of them could be restored to its former glory and would serve as a living connection with Truckee's railroad logging history. If you are interested in helping to fund this project or assisting with the restoration work, please contact us at [TruckeeDonnerRRSociety@gmail.com](mailto:TruckeeDonnerRRSociety@gmail.com).

Dan Cobb

## Pocket Park Update

**By Chip Huck**

The Society is currently finishing the draft language and photos for the interpretive signage for the Pocket Park. Thanks to our donors, we have the necessary funds to complete the signage. We will shortly be working with Bill Oudegeest on the layout and final write up, and Dan Goddard on the structure and installation.

Planning efforts for the 1930 Bucyrus Erie Steam Crane aesthetic restoration are also complete. Just under 50% of the necessary project funds have been raised to date and we thank our donors including Union Pacific Railroad. Like the aesthetic restoration of the 1937 ALCO Rotary Snowplow, the crane will require hazardous materials abatement and surface preparation by 8884Abatement and painting by Accurate Painting & Staining. The crane however is costlier due to the overall shape and the height and intricacies of the body and crane boom. The project will require additional time, two types of paint, and scaffolding to efficiently reach and work on all areas of the crane. In addition to the surface work, steel plating will be installed to complete the crane cab, and reconditioning is necessary on the crane lights.



1930 Bucyrus Steam Crane, Awaiting Aesthetic Restoration

Please help us restore the steam crane Spring 2022 by donating funds to the Truckee Donner Railroad Society, P.O. box 3838, Truckee, CA 96160. You can also donate online at <https://www.truckeedonerrailroadsociety.com/involvement/involvement.html>. Your donation is greatly appreciated and will help to complete the park for all to enjoy Truckee's railroad history.

Chip Huck

# Truckee Donner Railroad Society

## Board of Directors:

Jerry Blackwill—President

Bob Bell—Executive Vice President and Treasurer

Ed Larson—Vice President, Museum Operations

Dan Cobb—Vice President, Strategic Planning

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy — Historian

Chip Hubb—Rolling Stock Restoration & Preservation

Greg Kuzma

Judy DePuy

Tom Smith

## Railroad 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.

## Truckee Railroad Museum Vision:

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.

## 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](mailto:volunteer_manager@truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com).

## Donate!

You can also help by donating at our website, [truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com](http://truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com), at the bottom of the home page.

[www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com](http://www.truckeedonnerrailroadsociety.com)  
501(c) 3 non-profit organization

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