

Snowshed

September 2009

Volume 2, Number 3



News Flash!

- Town issues caboose building permit
- Caboose progress continues
- Grant dollars flow but we still need help
- Looking ahead to caboose staffing

Inside

Area Railroad history	2
Southern Pacific Rotary Snowplow MW210	3

Caboose Project

Don Davis

Progress on the Caboose Museum continues. Since we reported in June, we have definitely moved from the planning & design phase into the building phase. We received a Building Permit June 19th authorizing the remodel of the caboose and construction of the ADA ramp in the Depot Parking lot. Here is what has been accomplished since the last report.

The rebuilt rear door is fabricated and installed. The ADA compliant front dutch door is ready, waiting on a custom jamb that will accommodate the caboose wall thickness. Significant dry rot was discovered during removal of the old door necessitating rebuilding about 20 sq ft of floor. It is now repaired and, barring further surprises, the new door should be in place by press time. Sections of sheet rock have been removed in preparation for installation of the Roomette and Tourist railroad displays. Sheet rock that will be visible after installation of displays has received a professional finish coat donated by Pinnacle Dry Wall and painted by Steve Disbrow. Placer Electric has completed the "rough electrical" work and we have passed the first official "inspection". We are now installing the ceiling bead board and trim giving the museum a "caboose" look.

Externally, the two new "grab bars" will be installed by press time and we will be able to apply a second coat of paint. Two local painters, Horizon

Cont. on page 2

Presidents Report

Bob Bell

The news continues to be good as Don Davis continues to lead our Caboose Museum / Exhibit to completion. Members, and several volunteer non-members are busy working on the cabinets, interior décor, and exhibit displays under construction. Our continued gratitude goes out to at least a dozen of our members including Steve Disbrow, Jim Hood, Tom Hobday, Keith Pattison, Michael Holly, Frank Ross, Ron Mason, Nelson VanGundy, Lorra Fowler, and several community members for all their hard work, and contributions.

As I reported in the last newsletter we succeeded in obtaining a \$4,000 grant from the Truckee Tahoe Community Foundation for purchase of materials, and I can report that we were successful in obtaining the necessary matching donations from our membership. We are still in need of several thousand dollars in order to be able to complete the museum with all the planned "bells and whistles", so if you still want to help out we need your contributions, and remember we are a 501 C3 non-profit and all donations are tax deductible.

Speaking of grants, Jim Hood was successful in writing and obtaining a grant from the National Railway Historical Society in excess of \$4,000. These funds will be used over the next 12 months to stabilize and repaint the roof and exterior of our SP9053 sleeper car. Jim will be putting together a work plan in the near future to begin this work and we will need many hours of volunteer labor the rest of this year and thru next summer.

Cont. on page 2

Nelson VanGundy led another successful and popular Trestle Tour and Jerry Blackwill headed up our booth at the also popular Truckee Thursday events. Thanks to these events, their hard work, and help from other members, we have added 10 new members to our Society.

We have approximately 800 books to sell. We could use a volunteer that would be willing to place a few books every month or two on eBay, Craig's List, or other online service to convert these books to cash to help fund the Society's increasing expenses for insurance, office supplies, and fund other restoration work. I can handle the

packing and shipping responsibilities, so all we need is someone to facilitate the auction or sale part of the process which can be done at your own desk computer from anywhere. Call me if you are interested in helping and we can work out a plan.

Even in these tough economic times our efforts have been moving forward at a rapid pace, so plan to get involved and join in the fun of Truckee Railroad History.

Bob Bell, President

Caboose Project continued

and Chameleon painting, have stepped forward to give the caboose a professional finish. When this is completed, the caboose will be ready to move.

The displays are progressing as well. The photo wallpaper depicting a cab forward locomotive in a snow shed and the mock snow shed have been installed. Just the labels and photographs remain. Ron Mason is making good progress on the Logging RR Display although he has been slowed down a bit by back surgery. As reported last time, Michael Holley has the rest of the display cabinet completed, lacking only paint. Jim Hood has painted the pieces of the roomette and partially reassembled it in his barn to confirm it will still go together. It will be moved to the caboose by press time. Nelson Van Gundy has started the Hobart Rails display.

The Town has started the parking lot remodel. They

have removed the tower base and filled in the sampling well. Sutton Paving will install the curb ramp within the week. Seal coating and striping will quickly follow. As soon as the caboose is painted, we will be able to move it to the parking lot and start construction of the deck and ADA ramp.

We are beginning to turn our attention to operational matters. We will soon need docents to staff the museum when open. We have a few volunteers already but the more we have, the more time we can be open and the more successful we will be in telling the museum's story and achieving our goal to build our dream museum in the Railyard. If you are interested and haven't already signed up, please contact Don Davis (ddavis@tcol.com) and we'll put you on the list.

Area Railroad History

As most of you are aware, the area north of Truckee was honeycombed with logging roads in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Following are some photographs, courtesy of Nelson Van Gundy, of the remnants of some of these lines.



President, Bob Bell "inspecting" a trestle.



Independence Creek trestle (Hobart Mills).

Southern Pacific Rotary Snowplow MW210 Keith Pattison

Southern Pacific Rotary Snowplow MW210 was built by Schenectady Locomotive Works in 1937 to a Leslie design as SP MW7210. It was initially steam powered with fuel oil and water supplied by tenders MW 7210A and 7210B. In 1957 it was converted to diesel electric (renumbered to MW210 in April 1962) and stationed in Sparks Nevada until 1982 and retired from service in 1983 when it was relocated to the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) in Sacramento. In 2007 the CSRM donated it to the Truckee Donner Railroad Society.

During its active service the Rotary was used to maintain the SP right of way over Donner Pass, most notably participating in the rescue of "The City of San Francisco" which became snowbound over the summit in 1952.

Rotary snow plows have been used for right of way maintenance throughout the United States, particularly in the Cascades, Sierra Nevada and Rocky Mountains. While they still play a roll in severe snow conditions, they have effectively been replaced by modern spreaders and flangers.

The Rotary was donated to TDRS by the California State Railroad Museum and moved to its current location by the Union Pacific Railroad without charge. We greatly appreciate their generous support.



Additional trestle remnants of an Independence Creek trestle.



Engine house work pit at Hobart Mills. There was an eight stall round house at this site.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To discover, preserve, and showcase the history of railroading in the Truckee area to include the transcontinental, logging, tourist and narrow gauge lines and the community facilities supporting those activities. This will be accomplished through the acquisition, preservation, education, community outreach, and display of equipment, memorabilia, and documents relevant to the area railroading in a permanent facility located within the Town of Truckee.

Board of Directors:

Bob Bell—President
Jim Hood—Vice President
Don Davis—Secretary
Nelson Van Gundy—
Treasurer and Historian
Sandy Coots
Steve Disbrow
Dean Dvoracek
Rick McConn
Frank Ross
Dale Fowlar

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

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

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 blasting black powder in the granite over Donner Lake, to hissing of the first steam coming to town, to lumberjack whistles in the mountains, to ice cracking as it loads in reefers, and tourists flocking to share the beauty of the area, The Truckee Railroad Museum tells the story.

- ◆ A place to Learn
- ◆ A place to interact
- ◆ A place to Enjoy

Current Projects Seeking Support

- ◆ Caboose Museum Interior
- ◆ Crane Rehabilitation
- ◆ Rotary Restoration
- ◆ Sleeper Restoration
- ◆ Switcher Operational repair
- ◆ Internet Book Sales

If you are able to support any of these projects with your time, talent or dollars, please contact us.

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

RENO NV 895

14 OCT 2009 PM 2 L

