

Snowshed

December, 2012

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Museum Status

Don Davis

Winter is upon us! The Donner Summit Snow lab reports 16 ft with 4 more expected in the next few days. So far this December, we've had to cancel opening the museum four days due to snow. On the plus side, the museum is treated to a steady parade of UP Flangers and Spreaders, we haven't yet seen a Rotary Snowplow but might. On the minus side, we have a Mt. Everest of snow in the parking lot and are running out of places to put the snow when shoveling the deck.

The museum is continuing to attract visitors (14,833 as of Dec. 1, with donations totaling \$8,015), enabling us to begin looking at upgrading the exhibits. A review conducted by the museum docents suggested modifications and improvements to nearly every exhibit. The logging display was selected to be first as it requires the most interpretation by docents in order to tell its story. Designs are being developed to make it interactive with prerecorded audio messages describing various display features as they are highlighted with spotlights all under control of the visitor. An operational G scale Shay locomotive model will be added to illustrate the unique capabilities of this type engine and their application to logging railroads. There are a few technical challenges remaining but hopefully we will have a viable plan for the Board to approve at the January meeting.

There are many ways for you to participate in this project especially if you have some Windows computer skills to set up the controller or Adobe Illustrator skills to make labels. And as always, we need more docents. Generally we find a volunteer at the last minute but occasionally we are unsuccessful and cannot open. A few more names on the list would be very helpful. If interested contact me at ddavis@ltol.com

Rails Around Lake Tahoe: Steam Trains and Steamboats

A new book by Mallory Hope Ferrell:

I suspect that most of us in the Society are interested in logging and tourism development in and around Lake Tahoe as well as Truckee, and this book is quite good in those areas. There are a variety of excellent pictures of the Lake Tahoe Transportation and Railway Company transfer from the Truckee train to Tahoe City and the Lake Tahoe steamers; I



- Snow returns to the Truckee area!
- Brewster West Foundation continues to provide significant support to your Rail Road Society
- New book highlights area tourist rail and steamer history

In side

President's Letter 2

Legendary UP 844 visits Truckee 3

always enjoy the shots of the train out on the Tahoe Tavern pier in the Lake. [Side Note-- When Tahoe is low enough in the fall you can still see the cut-off piers off the beach at Tahoe Tavern.] There are also a number of useful photographs of Lake Tahoe steamers at a range of locations on Tahoe. He also found some more previously unpublished pictures, including some of logging in both the Juniper Creek and Martis Creek areas, as well as some Truckee Lumber Co. photos which are not in the Swayne Lumber book. All in all, a worthwhile addition to any Truckee/Tahoe railroad aficionado's library.

Nelson Vangundy

President's Report

Jim Hood

The Tahoe Donner Railroad Society has had another good year in 2012. The visitation at our Museum has continued to be excellent and I want to personally thank the Docents who give generously of their time so that we can continue to have our doors open and maintain the interest of our visitors in our extremely rich railroad history.

The TDRS held its Annual Meeting on August 18, 2012 and elected a new Board of Directors. Two of our Board members retired this year and were replaced with two new directors. We are fortunate to have a dedicated Board of Directors with members who continue to serve multiple terms, thus giving us continuity on our short term and long term plans. At the Board meeting on September 5, 2012 the Board elected its officers for the 2012 through 2014 term.

Last year we received our largest ever cash contribution from the Brewster West Foundation and used their generous endowment to make significant improvements and upgrades to the displays in the interim museum. The Brewster West Foundation made an even larger contribution to the TDRS in 2012 and we are in the process of planning the improvements that we will incorporate in the

museum using these funds. We will be making these improvements in the next few months with the intent to keep the exhibits "fresh" for visitors. We are planning to incorporate some new "museum technology" in these improvements which we believe will make the Museum an even better and more interactive experience for our visitors.

We have continued to work with Rick and Nancy Holliday, the developers of the Railyard project in downtown Truckee. This project is a multiyear, phased development of a large parcel of land to the East of the Historic Downtown area of Truckee. The development will include Retail, Entertainment, Residential and Industrial facilities. We hope to be able to have space to expand our Museum into this phased development and to grow with the overall project. We have started to work with an Architecture firm to develop concepts for our Permanent Museum and with museum display designers and builders. We anticipate future expansions of the Railroad Museum will be located within the Railyard development. I want to thank all of our members and friends for their support throughout the year and to wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

UP 844 comes to Truckee

Steam Locomotive No. 844 is the last steam locomotive built for the Union Pacific Railroad. It was delivered in 1944 as a high-speed passenger engine. Hailed as Union Pacific's "Living Legend," the engine is widely known among railroad enthusiasts.



844 steams into town.



The 844 crew services the engine during its stopover in Truckee.

Student Rail Fans came in droves with their parents and teachers to see 844 steam into town. The Truckee Donner Rail Road Society had provided in-class teaching about Truckee rail road history as well as history of the 844 and encouraged the students to come and see this "living" legend.

We would like to thank Jan Dill and the many TDRRS members and rail fans who submitted photographs of 844 and her visit to Truckee. We wish we could have printed more.

Truckee Donner Railroad Society

Society Mission:

To preserve, interpret, and educate the public about rail-roading 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 Donner Railroad Society
P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

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

Board of Directors:

Jim Hood—President

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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 in to 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 Enjoy
- ◆ A place to Interact

Current Projects Seeking Support

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

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

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P.O. Box 3838
Truckee, Ca 96160

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