

Snowshed

March, 2013

Volume 6 Number 1

Museum Status

Don Davis

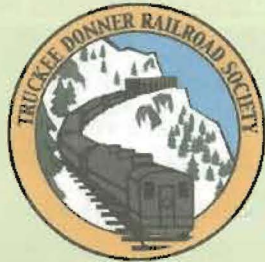
It's hard to believe that we are beginning our fourth year of operating the caboose as a museum, but here we are. In our first three years we have hosted over 15,600 visitors and received over \$8500 in donations. We've managed to achieve this with a small core of active docents, several of whom work several shifts per month. Thank you to those who made it possible. We can always use more docents. We'd like to have enough so that each individual docent would only need to volunteer once a month. (Hint! Hint!)

The big news item to report is we've begun a major upgrade of the Logging Railroad display, making it interactive. When completed, at the press of a button, the visitor can initiate a recorded interpretation of the display with lighting directing his attention to individual features as they are discussed. The sequence begins with a map showing the many logging railroads that were in the Truckee area, while the narration introduces the visitor to the topic. Then, spotlights from overhead illuminate the various individual features (camps, hand laborers, steam donkeys, etc.) while their roll is described by the narration. As a grand finale, the lights in the lower tier of the display will come on directing the visitor's attention to a G scale Shay that will roar to life and demonstrate the unique features that made it a logging railroad favorite. Then, by pressing one of several other buttons, the visitor will be able to select individual subtop-

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A Special Invitation

TDRS is sponsoring a program we think will interest both our members and the general public. Entitled "Contemporary Views Along The First Transcontinental Railroad," it is a collection of photographs with narration by photographer Richard Koenig. Mr. Koenig is following the footsteps of Hart and Russell, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroad photographers who documented the original Pacific Railroad construction. His goal is to give the audience the strongest connection possible to this 19th century engineering marvel through the remaining visual evidence of the human-altered landscape. The program will be begin at 7:00 PM on Saturday May 18 in the in the Community Room in the new terminal building at the Truckee Tahoe Airport located at 10356 Airport Road. Admission is free but donations will be appreciated.



- ♦ Museum passes 15,000 visitor mark!
- ♦ Remake of logging display underway
- ♦ Richard Koenig to present photographic view of Transcontinental Railroad

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ics for an expanded, more detailed, discussion.

The project is divided into small steps hopefully each capable of being implemented mid week without affecting normal museum weekend operations. The recorded narration (without the lighting) will likely be available by the time you read this newsletter.

This upgrade, enabled by the Brewster Foundation grant announced last fall, is providing valuable experience in modern museum technology that we can apply to upgrades of our other exhibits and to the planning of future museums. Members donating their time making significant contributions to the project are Ed Larsen, Nelson VanGundy, Ed Czerwinski, Jim Hood and Don Davis.

President's Report

Jim Hood

In my last letter I mentioned that at the TDRS Annual Meeting on August 18, 2012 we elected a new Board of Directors. Your current Board Members are listed on Page 4 of this and every copy of our Newsletter. 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.

I would like to say a few words about the operational aspects of your Board of Directors. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month from 10:00am to Noon in the conference room at the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, 11071 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, California. Our meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend and we especially welcome any member of TDRS to join us. The January, March, May, July, September and November dates are "formal" Board of Directors meetings with emphasis on the "day to day business" of the Railroad Society. The other six dates are Strategic Planning Meetings focused on our plans for the future. The individuals who serve on your Board of

Directors are very active in the day to day operations of the TDRS. We are very grateful for those who volunteer to perform tasks for the Railroad Society such as being a docent, working on Museum upgrades, etc. However, the reality of our current situations is that the members of the Board do the majority of the tasks associated with operating the museum, facilitating the Community Outreach, maintaining our rolling stock, etc.

The Strategic Planning meetings focus on the longer term objective of TDRS to build a permanent Railroad Museum in Downtown Truckee. This is a very long term project and will undoubtedly involve numerous phases spread over a decade or more. Current emphasis is to expand beyond our current highly successful "Caboose" Museum into a much larger interim facility that will invoke the modern museum practices that are necessary to interest today's population. This is a significant task and we are getting major support from a number of experts in Museum design and operation.

Please continue to provide your support to the TDRS Board of Directors. They are a very dedicated and hard working group of people who are very capable of achieving the long term objectives of you Railroad Society.

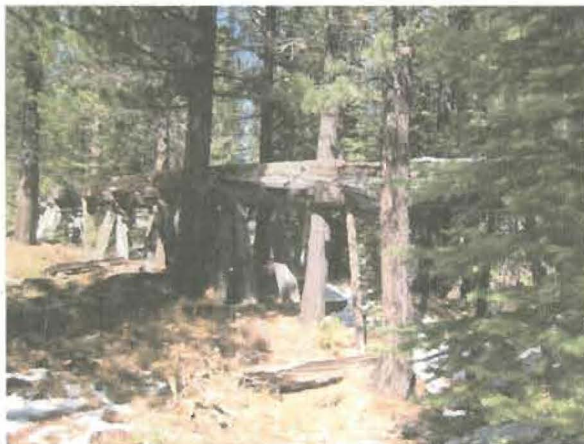
Sierra Narrow Gauge Conference

June 18 - 21 2013

Would you like to learn about narrow gauge railroading in the Sierras? The Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum and the Southern Pacific Narrow Gauge Historical Society are hosting a Sierra Narrow Gauge Conference from Tuesday, June 18th through Friday June 21st in Nevada City, Ca. Speakers include Truckee Donner Railroad Society members Nelson Van Gundy discussing the Hobart Mill railroads and Jerry Blackwill discussing DL Bliss's Truckee to Tahoe narrow gauge railroad. More information is available at their website: http://www.ncngrrmuseum.org/Sierra_NG_Conference/sierra_ng_conference.html



There will be a full 3 days of West Side Lumber Co. presentations at the Conference, so here are two 3' gauge West Side engines. First is West Side Lumber Co. #10, now running at the Yosemite Mountain line and the second is a WSLCo Heisler now on display in Tuolumne.



Long abandoned lumber RR trestles in the woods north of Truckee.

An elite group!

Most of you have missed an opportunity to join an elite group of fellow TDRSers in an effort to begin clean up activities on the sleeper and rotary. Led by Chip Huck, this group of merry men has removed an incredible amount of "stuff" from both the rotary and sleeper. But don't despair, it is not too late, Chip will be announcing a weekend cleanup date in the near future and all are invited to join in the fun! Hope to see you there. Ed.

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.

Board of Directors:

Jim Hood—President

Bob Bell—Executive Vice
President/Treasurer

Don Davis—Vice Presi-
dent, Museum Operations

Jerry Blackwill—Vice Presi-
dent, Strategic Planning

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy —
Historian

Barbara Czerwinski

Steve Disbrow

Chip Huck

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 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

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.

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