

# Snowshed

March, 2014

Volume 7 Number 1

## Museum Report Don Davis

For this quarterly report I would like to take a step back and reflect on the Museum's overall progress. We are still making headway adding interactive features to the logging exhibit which I will discuss later in the article. First our overall museum progress.

All in all I think we have done fairly well. Since opening in May 2010 we have averaged 4900 visitors per year with donations averaging \$2,700 per year. We have a decent base of 15 although, unfortunately, some

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- ◆ Caboose Museum Attendance and Donations Strong
- ◆ Bonnie Thompson Joins TDRS Board
- ◆ Call for Docents Continues

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## President's Letter Jim Hood

As I wrote in my prior letter we will focus our efforts in 2014 in two major areas. First we will have a significant Membership Drive to expand our membership and to engage more of our members in the activities of the Railroad Society. To this end we have elected Bonnie Thompson to our Board of Directors. Bonnie will focus on using Social Media to get better visibility of our organization to a larger audience. Second we will focus our efforts toward finding a location for a larger Museum. We have received some encouraging news regarding a possible location and hope that during 2014 we can start the exciting work of deciding how we will utilize that space. If we are successful in finding a suitable location, we will also start planning a Capital Campaign to configure the space and contract for "professional" exhibits that are tailored to our objective of preserving the rich Railroad History of our area.

Our current Museum continues to attract significant crowds. I want to thank Don Davis for continuing to lead the effort to upgrade our exhibits and for his work to recruit more Docents so we can keep the Museum open on its full schedule of Weekends, Special Holidays and Truckee Thursdays.

I also want to thank Bob Bell for his efforts to build a scale Railroad capable of giving rides to children and adults at the Regional Park located in Truckee. He has received approval for the project from the Truckee Donner Parks and Recreational District and is currently raising money for the project. We believe that this will further enhance our Community Outreach efforts and continue to build support for our organization.

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do not volunteer regularly. We do manage to staff most days, averaging less than five days per year when we are unable to open due to staffing. We can use more docents to help improve this record and take the load off some of the regulars. I also believe we have learned a lot about what it takes to select, design and build quality, meaningful displays. This will be helpful as we move forward to our “next step” museum and beyond.

The logging display is slowly chugging along. The new display cap with spotlights is installed and the control panel is nearing completion. Finding the narrative with a blend of brevity and meaningful content that holds the listener attention is proving to be a challenge, but we are making progress.

If you would like to increase your participation in society activities, please contact any of the board members. Check out Bob Bell’s article on an exciting new opportunity for both the society and the membership!

## Society to Construct, Operate and Maintain a Riding Train in the Truckee Regional Park

### Bob Bell

Onward and Upward with the growth and impact of our Railroad Society!

It is with great excitement that the Truckee Donner Railroad Society announces our project to construct, operate and maintain a riding train in the Regional Park. This project has the full support and cooperation of the Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District.

We currently have a two phase plan with the first to be operational by mid-summer 2014. Phase 1 will consist of approximately 700 to 800 feet of 7 1/2 gauge track (1/8 scale) in a loop in the playground area behind the baseball field at the regional Park off Estates Drive at Brockway Road. We will initially use privately owned battery powered locomotives and riding cars but plan to have Society owned equipment available by 2015.

Phase 2 will expand the track by 1,000 feet within the next few years, depending upon our success in raising funds. We also plan to construct a static train display to stimulate kid’s imagination; plus scale historical model structures such



**Bob Bell on his riding railroad**

as a snow shed, depot, storage shed and other railroad related facilities. Guest scale steam locomotives will also be invited to run on our railroad.

The Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District staff and Board of Directors have been very supportive and are excited to have this activity in our community for kids of all ages. Our plan is to schedule run days one Saturday and one Sunday each month (weather permitting). The railroad will also be available for private and community events. We will encourage donations during the public run days and charge for privately run events.

To date we have raised approximately half of the \$18,000 required for phase I. We certainly would appreciate any contributions from Society members and friends of the Society to fund material and services required to complete Phase I. Donations will be recognized with on site signage and naming of equipment and other appropriate pieces of the railroad.

We all know that our long-term goal and vision for the Society is to someday have a full size Railroad Museum in Truckee. Our Board of Directors and volunteers believe that providing this public ride-on railroad will greatly enhance our community visibility for our goal. We will be providing fun, educational programs, career knowledge, historical interpretation, and safety awareness about living in and around full scale railroad operations.

We encourage ideas for the name-branding of our railroad. If you have any ideas please pass them along. We are encouraging volunteers to help with the construction and operation of the railroad, so please contact me if you are willing to be part of this great project. I will be more than happy to train and educate anyone who wants to participate as a train engineer, conductor, stationmaster, or on the maintenance-of-way crew.



**A Shay Steam Locomotive**

# 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 President, Museum Operations

Jerry Blackwill—Vice President, Strategic Planning

Ed Czerwinski—Secretary

Nelson Van Gundy — Historian

Barbara Czerwinski

Steve Disbrow

Chip Huck

Bonnie Thompson

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

## 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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Truckee, Ca 96160