

# Snowshed

June 2010

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## CABOOSE MUSEUM OPENS



### News Flash!

- Caboose Museum Opens May 8, National Train Day
- Annual meeting to be held July 11 at the Bell residence
- Endowment effort needs your support

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### Don Davis

To the delight of many the caboose is now open! On May 8, following a few speeches thanking folks for their participation and contributions in building the museum, Truckee Mayor Carolyn Dee issued a proclamation declaring it to be National Train Day in Truckee and then, by cutting the ribbon across the door, formally opened the museum. We had 182 visitors the first day and are nearing 1000 as we go to press. Not only are we getting local visitors we've had several from England, South Africa,

Japan, India, Australia and other countries around the world. Most gratifying are the reception and complements visitors give us.

There are a few unfinished items to be completed and we are considering some additional displays but the main focus has shifted from construction to operations. Presently, we are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Weekends and Holidays and from 5:00 until 9 PM on Truckee Thursdays, the Community Street Fair held weekly during the summer months.

## Caboose Opening continued

Our visitors tell some interesting tales. For example, while working as a docent, I've talked with a man claiming to have been the conductor riding in our caboose when it was derailed, and to another gentleman who's father was a maintenance away crewman, stationed in Truckee, during the winter of 1952. He lived in one of the small houses along West River Street and was part of the crew that rescued the city of San Francisco. Whether they are true stories, who knows, they are fun to listen to.

Staffing the museum with docents is our next challenge. The task of a docent is to welcome each visitor and provide a brief introduction describing what they will see in the museum, to answer their questions, and then as they leave, thank them for coming. While having some knowledge of Truckee Railroad History is a plus, it is not a requirement. We plan periodic training sessions, (the first to be held in July will be announced as soon as we get a date and venue). Lastly, the docent manual contains all the procedural things you need to know as well as supplemental material for each exhibit. It is a fun way to spend an afternoon especially if you enjoy talking with people.

We've set the goal of having enough docents so that each would only need to contribute three hours per month. For our current hours, that means we need a pool of 20 to 25 docents. We have a ways to go as we currently have a roster of 15 volunteers but not all have been able to participate to date. As a result several have done yeoman duty working several shifts. We thank them for their dedication and service. Although you don't have to be a member to be a docent, this is an area where the membership can really make a contribution and it can be a fun thing to do. If you live within an hour or so from Truckee, please consider signing up and participating. Contact Phil Langley ([pjlangley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pjlangley@sbcglobal.net)) if you can give us a hand.

## Presidents Report

### Bob Bell

Saturday, May 8, 2010 was our Grand Opening attended by over 180 members, community leaders, and residents. Truckee mayor Carolyn Dee presented a proclamation and cut the ribbon to open the Museum, we had the High School Jazz Band, Don Davis thanked all our contributors and donors, and Nelson VanGundy talked about the importance of a Railroad Museum in Truckee. Be sure to visit your Museum whenever you are in town as we will be continuing to improve and upgrade the exhibits all summer.

Now that we are an operating Museum, we need docents to work and have fun in the Museum. Please consider helping out by keeping the Museum open on our schedule of Weekends, holidays, and Truckee Thursday evening events. No experience is necessary and Don Davis, Phil Langley, or I will be more than willing to get you started. Just sign up whenever you get the email from Phil with the schedule. If you have not been getting Phil's email requests be sure to forward us your email address so our records are up to date, or call me at 916/716-7897.

Once again my thanks go out to so many of our members, and non member community volunteers, that have now put in over 3000 man-hours to construct The Truckee Railroad Museum.

Plan now to attend the Society's annual membership meeting on July 11 and join in future museum strategic planning, equipment restoration, educational outreach and other projects that might interest you. Our endowment fund continues to grow as well if you just want to help out financially with a contribution to this fund which will continue to grow for the long term security of the Society and Museum.

## Strategic Plan for Truckee Donner Railroad Society, Continued

### Keith Pattison

#### *Results to date*

In 2008, TDRS moved 5 pieces of rolling stock to Truckee. Included are, Rotary snow plow, Pullman sleeper, 80 diesel switcher, Brown hoist crane, and ex-Southern Pacific caboose.

Develop plan for restoration of the sleeper car, and win Grant for the sleeper car for weatherizing and painting

Develop plan for restoration of the rotary snow plow

Refurbish the Caboose for occupancy and move to downtown Truckee

Develop, staff and open the Truckee Railroad Museum

#### *Currently investigating*

One of the goals in establishing the Truckee Railroad Museum in the caboose was to learn museum operations and begin to build our base of docents. The other key capability we need to develop is that of restoration. This includes the physical space as well as the volunteers with the skills to do it. The team is currently evaluating the feasibility of establishing a restoration shop in the Truckee area to begin this work in earnest.

#### *What else is happening?*

Behind all of this, we continue to work the relationships with the Town, Holliday Development, and other critical organizations necessary to bring the long term museum to reality.

## 2010 Trestle Tour Schedule

### Nelson Van Gundy

**July 10**—Verdi Lumber Company. Start at the mill site in Verdi and head north into Dog Valley. View right of ways, old camp sites and a five legged switch back.

**August 7**—Boca and Loyalton Railroad. Discover the switchback that tied the B&L to the Southern Pacific, the sites of world famous Boca Beer and the Union Ice Co. Stampede & Sardine Valleys and an old lumber camp.

**September**—Lake Tahoe Railway and Transportation Company. Trace the LTR&TC from our Caboose Museum up the Truckee River to Lake Tahoe and the 986 foot wharf.

**October 2**—Hobart Estates. Trace the standard guage line from Truckee to the Town of Hobart estates where 1500 people once lived. View the remnants of the round house and discover some of the largest trestles still left in the area.

Visit our web site for further information on these tours.

## Society Mission:

### 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  
Ron Florian  
Dale Fowlar  
Frank Ross

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.

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

[www.truckeedonerrailroadsociety.com](http://www.truckeedonerrailroadsociety.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.

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