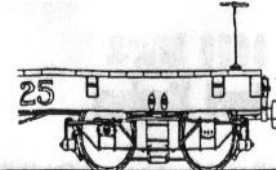


SPCRR  
P.O. Box 783  
Newark, CA 94560  
**PLEASE FORWARD**  
Return Requested

# CARTER NARROW GAUGE CHRONICLES



The Newsletter of the Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources

May 2000

# Work Day

## May 13, 2000

### 10:00 a.m.

The sun is shining and the sky is clear, so you can leave your rain coats home for the May work party. We're going to continue work on boxcar 472. Bob Tupper will be coordinating work on rebuilding the steps. Bring your painting clothes and perhaps we will be able to get some paint on the car too.

We'll also continue work on the track. We may even get to lay some guard rails this time!

And if that's not enough, we will also be preparing for Memorial Day Weekend. The Civil War Association will be re-enacting their battles, evidently up front by our depot, so we need to do some housekeeping!

As always, bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, and a camera. The FUN starts around 10:00 a.m. and will continue as long as we have work

Andrew Cary  
5264 SCMERSET PL  
NEWARK CA  
94560



## 2000 SPCRR Board Members

President: Di Schwartz  
[di6154@yahoo.com](mailto:di6154@yahoo.com)  
408-272-1181

Vice Pres: Bill Wissel  
[wisselb@iconus.com](mailto:wisselb@iconus.com)  
650-917-3664

Treasurer: Trudy Frank  
[FrankFlex@mindspring.com](mailto:FrankFlex@mindspring.com)  
408-739-9633

Secretary: Janne Wissel  
[janne.wissel@alza.com](mailto:janne.wissel@alza.com)  
650-564-4282

Director: Bob Tupper  
408-224-6137

Director: Kyle Wyatt  
[KyleWyatt@aol.com](mailto:KyleWyatt@aol.com)

General Manager  
Barbara Culp  
510-785-1343

## Town of Drawbridge

-Submitted by Rich Hill  
For the past 18 years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has hosted tours of the historic south bay "ghost town" of Drawbridge.

Unfortunately, U.S. Fish and Wildlife says they can no longer offer tours because of safety concerns.

Long time members of SPCRR may remember some of the group field trips to Draw-

bridge. The town was a once prosperous and popular resort stop on the SPCRR route.

Isolated on Station Island, the only way to access Drawbridge is still by way of the railroad bridges that cross over the mud sloughs. With Amtrak's Capitol, the Alameda County Express, and a general increase in rail traffic through Drawbridge, the risk of walking tour groups over the railroad bridge has increased. Union Pacific, the new owner of the right-of-way, is concerned for the safety of tour groups crossing the bridges, and has decided to stop the tours.

The tours were popular with history buffs, bird watchers, tourists, and railroad enthusiasts. The tours consistently sold out and there was usually a long waiting list.

Drawbridge began in the 1870s. The South Pacific Coast Railroad's maintained a bridge tender in the Drawbridge, which eventually grew to as many as 40 buildings. The town became a popular spot for hunters and vacationing families. The last residents left the town in 1979 when it became part of the wildlife refuge.

## Volunteer Focus:

The first maintenance of way manager was Rich Nealson. Bill Wissel was the second. Back in the early days of SPCRR, track maintenance was little more than grabbing a pick and a shovel, and beating the weeds back. Since the grade was new, we did not need to replace ties very regularly.

The third, and current maintenance of way manager, is **John Theberge**, and from his first day as manager, things changed markedly. Several years ago, the park began to regulate our weed abatement program. John immediately instituted a procedure for notifying the park when track maintenance activities would be conducted, and started a log of track maintenance work.



John also built one of our first pieces of mechanized equipment, a compressor mounted on one of our tool cars.

More recently, John has designed and built a car clearance fixture for tree trimming. It mounts on our flatcar, and measures the clearance of branches and trees. Anything that does not clear gets cut back.

In addition, John has identified several areas of our track and loading docks which need some attention, and notified the board where our next efforts should be.

I wish I could say that the track looked this good when I was track manager. Thanx for all of your hard work and late nights, John!



# April Work Day

## ANOTHER SUCCESS!

At the April work day, led by John Theberge, great progress was made on the track. The condition of the track was improved by adding a number of new ties, removing a lot of weeds, and surveying for future maintenance needs. John Stutz was observed walking along the grade, looking for flat car parts. (rumor has it that he may have been looking for parts from the brake rigging, so next time you see him, ask what he found).

Thanks to everyone for his or her efforts and for the fine results. The crew listed below are some of the people we saw out having fun on our April workday.

Eric Clarke  
Trudy Frank  
Rolland  
Randy Hees  
John Stutz  
John Theberge  
Ken Ruble  
Kim Hill  
Rich Hill

Thanks to all who helped, and as always, sorry if we missed you!

Maintenance of Way Manager John Theberge has identified several projects that we need to address. Below are some:

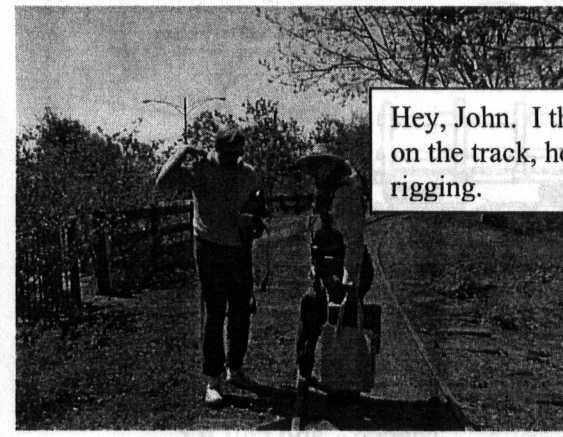
- Ardenwood Station, the car deck is 2.5 inches above Station Platform. There is a 1 inch gap between the platform and the car deck. Need to improve vertical alignment for wheelchair access.
- guard rails for switches
- Approximately 23 ties still need to be replaced near the eastern end of the North Grove.
- Deerpark ped-xing needs to be rebuilt
- Rail flangeways need to be installed at the Corp Yard Crossing.
- Deerpark station platform needs additional fill or decking installed

### Special Events at Ardenwood

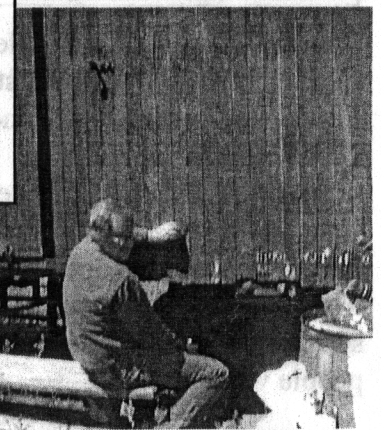
The following events are happening at Ardenwood Historic Farm:

Spring Festival—May 14  
Civil War Event May 27-29  
Celtic Festival June 10

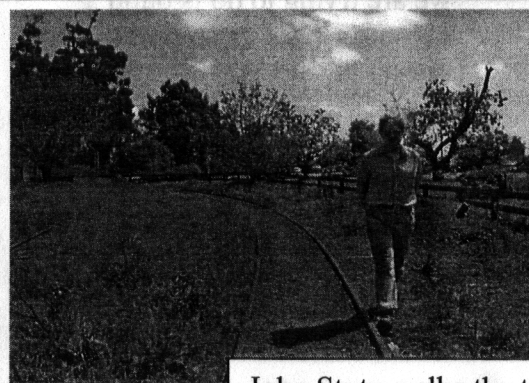
## PHOTO GALLERY



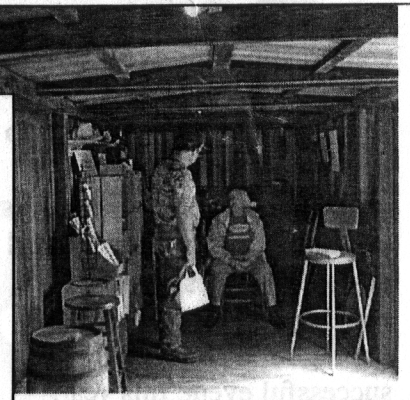
Hey, John. I think we found something on the track, here . . . looks like brake rigging.



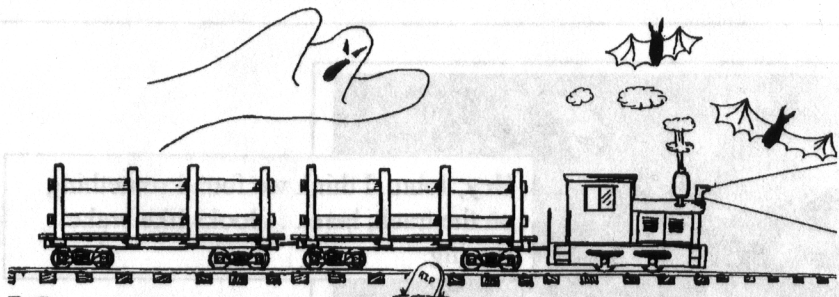
Randy Hees works on siding while Trudy Frank greets a park guest in the newly re-opened museum boxcar 472.



John Stutz walks the track on a "parts search". We're not sure if he found anything or not.



# Halloween Ghost Train Fund Raiser



Yes, there are already people starting to plan for the Ghost Train. October 20, 21, 22 and 27, 28, 29, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> are some suggested dates for the Haunted Railroad. Of course, how many days we operate will depend on how much support we get and how many people volunteer.

Eric and Syd Clarke are coordinating this event this year. We are proposing a very ambitious schedule in order to maximize the fund raising opportunities to the group. As you all know, we have several projects that desperately need maintenance, so we are hoping for a particularly successful event, this year.

The first step in planning this event is to determine how

many people want to get involved. To do this, we've decided to break the railroad grade down to "bite-size" "scenes", and call for volunteers to "manage" each scene. If you are interested in designing, or constructing, or in anyway, supporting a scene, please let us know. You will not be alone, we have a budget, and there will be support. At this point, all we are trying to do is build a volunteer base to support the event.

Operating eight nights over 2 weeks will require a big effort from our membership. The question is...can we do it. Stay tuned for more information.

## Board Report:

- by Janne Wissel  
Summarized minutes of the last board report:

♦ Acquisition and approval of a building. Vice-pres Bill Wissel and treasurer Trudy Frank were appointed to pursue both a building, and research the approval process from EBRPD and City of Fremont.

♦ Negotiations with EBRPD continue for our operating contract for this year. Pres Di Schwartz was appointed as point of contact to negotiate for SPC.

♦ The committee working on grants learned that NARF would not be able to act on grant proposals until late fall. The board discussed another grant from TRAINS magazine, and endorsed application for the TRAINS grant. Di Schwartz is

working with interested volunteers to have a proposal for review at the next meeting. The deadline for submission of this proposal is June.

♦ The steps leading to Car 472 need replacement. Bob Tupper will host the May work day for this task. He has also identified donated material to make this project go.

♦ Eric Clarke requested dates for the Haunted Railroad event. Eight nights were proposed.

## Corral Fund Raiser

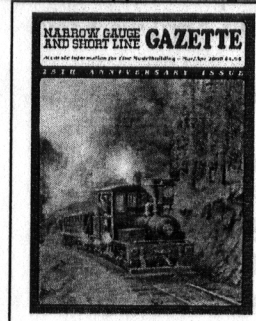
So far, the "Adopt a Post and Plank" program has raised \$358.00. If you are interested in contributing, a \$50 donation will help provide a section of corral. If you have other resources that would help corral restoration, please contact Mary Jane Gendreau.

## Change of Gate Key

The Park District has changed the lock on the main gate to a new key. So please be aware that the key you have may not open the gate any more. If you find yourself locked in the park, use the telephone located next to the Blacksmith Shop to call for assistance.

If you need a new key, contact the park director.

## 1010 Plans Apper in Magazine



Plans for our own SP 1010 were just published in the latest issue of *Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette*. The plans were drawn by long time SPCRR member Herman Darr, back in 1972.