



January 2014 edition.

Hotbox is a monthly publication of The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood, designed to update members and the general public about **activities, work events, and volunteer opportunities** at the museum. Editorial comments or input can be directed to Bruce MacGregor, editor, at bruce.macgregor@comcast.net.

The Museum's mission is the preservation, restoration and interpretation of regional narrow gauge railroad history, including Carter Brothers, a pioneer railroad car builder of California. The Museum is operated by SPCRR, a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) corporation of the State of California.

The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood is located at Ardenwood Historic Farm, in Fremont, California.

Editor's Box

Happy New Year! This is coming to you a few days before January 1, to ask you consider making a tax-deductable donation to SPCRR. In 2014, we're keeping the **Hotbox** focus on museum activities and volunteer work events, but we're adding a new feature- a spotlight on opportunities for meaningful project support. This is a chance to help keep your favorite museum project funded, and moving forward. You'll see these **donation boxes** highlighted in blue, below, along with guidance on how to target your gift to a favorite project, and where to send it. Consider making a tax-exempt gift before New Year's day!

Car Restoration. Randy Hees, Curator.

what: caboose 5591; work continues on caboose floor
when: Saturday, January 11, 10am-5 pm; most Thursday afternoons, 2-5 pm
where: Car Barn (eastern end of Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont)

who: Randy Hees, coordinator: randyhees@gmail.com 650.347.5055

details: Jobs are available for all skill levels. We have tools on hand. Gloves and work clothing are good ideas.

We made some progress on the caboose in December... with the building we were able to remove the various loose parts from the car. They are now neatly organized on the 4 wheel flatcar. The new subfloor for the baggage end is cut and ready to put down. The second cupola seat assembly has been cut free, and is ready to be disassembled and removed.

In January we expect to complete the removal of the cupola seat, install more subflooring, and begin to install the finished floor. As we install the finish floor we will begin to reinstall the salon and side bench seats, and Gene Arrillaga will be making the door cages for the baggage doors. We will also begin to paint the interior.

Donations will be cheerfully accepted to the Caboose Fund. We need to buy new center plates at about \$200 each. The "finish" flooring is Douglas fir tongue and groove, and costs about \$5.00 a square foot. We need paint (now nearly \$50.00 a gallon)... for a total immediate budget need of about \$1900. checks can be marked "Caboose fund" and sent to SPCRR, P.O.Box 783, Newark, CA 94560.

Track. John Stutz, coordinator.

What: Add ballast in Car Barn area; also replace worn head block tie under front crossover.
When: Sat, January 4, 10-4 pm and Sat, January 11, 10-4 pm (regular monthly work day)
Where: Car Barn (eastern end of Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont)
Who: John Stutz, coordinator: president@spcrr.org

Details: All are welcome, but many tasks involved in track work require physical ability to lift heavy tools and parts. Leather gloves and sturdy footwear recommended.

While work continues on spur tracks in the Car Barn area, we are missing a key part required to make new progress. We are ordering a custom frog (#5-1/2) to fit a switch into a location with restricted room. The custom frog has been ordered, with an expected delivery time of late January. In the meantime, we'll do tie replacement, and other basic maintenance tasks, wherever they are needed.

Donations will be cheerfully accepted to the Track Fund. We are about to purchase a new, custom frog for a storage spur located near the car barn, at a cost of \$1800, from Harmer Steel products. Checks can be marked "Track Fund" and sent to SPCRR, P.O. Box 783, Newark, CA 94560.

Car Barn Furnishings and Organization

As part of our regular monthly work day (January 11), we're hoping to make progress on two Car Barn projects:

- (1) we need at least eight sturdy step ladders to allow access to cars now stored in the barn; they should be 3'- 3-1/2' tall.
- (2) we are continuing to investigate heavy duty commercial shelving for Car Barn storage. Member Kevin Bunker's employer has possible surplus shelving located in San Francisco; someone able to visit his employer, and evaluate the shelving for possible use, should email John Stutz to make arrangements: president@spcrr.org .

Volunteer Update. John Goldie, Membership Manager

New Member Welcome - **Kevin Bunker** - Oakland CA

2013 Tax Receipts - For donations of \$30 or more, a consolidated tax receipt letter will be sent in early February or before. Thank you for your generous financial support to help us reach our goals.

Member Database Updates - to update your address, email ID, phone number - please email them to membership@spcrr.org

Horse Operations

Horse operations are in their winter maintenance and training season. Stay tuned.

Donations cheerfully accepted to the Horse Fund. Our newest draft horse, Goliath, currently needs a permanent, custom-fit collar and harness, costing about \$3000. Checks can be marked "Horse Fund" and sent to SPCRR, P.O. Box 783, Newark, CA 94560



Northwestern Pacific narrow gauge caboose 5591; a donation from the California State Railway Museum, arriving at Ardenwood in 2010.