

SPCRR's Hotbox

Monthly

activities and work events

The Railroad Museum
at
Ardenwood

July, 2015 Edition. *Hotbox* is a monthly bulletin of The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood, designed to update members and the general public about **activities, work events, and volunteer opportunities** at the museum. Questions or comments 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.



Go Volunteers!

This issue kicks off the busy season for The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood. Here comes a passionate appeal – to new and returning volunteers – to help put the railroad in shape for two big events, Rail Fair and the Haunted Train, plus a whole bunch of additional operating days happening between now and November.

No matter what your skill level, age, or interests, we've made it super easy for you to find a way to participate in, and enjoy, the museum's "high season" of steam operation, car restoration, track work, and hands-on railroading. Read on for details!

I couldn't think of a better lead photo than volunteers Bruce Sorrel and John Erdkamp, pictured at the left. Bruce is demonstrating the art of "windmilling," driving railroad spikes in the traditional way. We confess it may take a little practice to be as skilled as Bruce, but there are many other jobs available. Come on out and find the job that fits best!

Only 66 Days until Rail Fair !

Save these dates:

Sat thru Fri, Aug 29-Sept 4: Rail Fair Setup

Sat thru Mon, Sept 5-7: Washington Township Rail Fair

Tues, Sept 8: Rail Fair Cleanup

Steam returns to the museum at the 15th Annual Washington Township Rail Fair, scheduled for Labor Day weekend. In the August issue of Hotbox, we'll provide details and a link to the online signup for volunteer jobs.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please send Barbara Culp, event coordinator, an email:

Barbara Culp, General Manager general-manager@spcrr.org



Haunted Train Kick-off Planning Meeting

Rail Fair and the Haunted Train are approaching fast. We need everyone's help to make these events a success!

Join us for the formal kickoff meeting to get the 2015 Haunted Train ready to go in October. The meeting will be held at on **July 25 at 5:30 pm** at the Burgess home on Sandalwood Street in Newark (please email or call for the address). To get your creative ideas flowing, pizza and soft drinks will be provided.

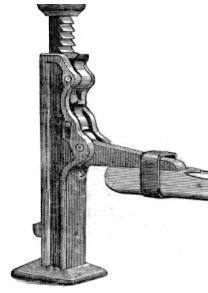
The Haunted Train and Rail Fair are SPCRR's primary fund-raisers—they provides most of the budget to restore our railroad equipment. The Haunted Train is operated only with volunteers, so also mark your calendars for the last two weekends before Halloween: October 16, 17, 18; and 23, 24, 25. We need volunteers to cover many roles: publicize the event; sell tickets and glow sticks; set up and take down the decorations each night; engineers and brakemen to operate the trains; and ghosts, pirates, grave diggers, etc. to haunt the woods. There is a job for everyone, young and old. Bring your families and have fun dressing up and play acting.

This is a great event for new and old members to get involved, to have fun, and to see the museum in a different light! We hope to see you on July 25 at 5:30 to help us kickoff the event.

Help us Haunt The 'Wood' ! **A link to an online volunteer sign up will be available soon, both in Hotbox and on our website, www.spcrr.org.**

For more information, contact Andrew Cary at hauntedtrain@spcrr.org or by phone at 510.794.8536 or 707.340.4044.

Featured July Workday: Restoration Repainting Boxcar 472



Name of Work Event: Restoration/Repainting Boxcar 472

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2015

Time: 10 am-5 pm

Meet At: Car Barn – See “Directions”

Special Abilities or Work Equipment: N/A

What to Bring: Work Gloves & Old Clothes, plus Safety Glasses & Dust Mask if you have them (we have a few loaners). Water is provided, but please bring a drinking container. It is possible we might go out to lunch, but we may be pretty dirty. Feel free to bring your lunch if you would prefer.

Progress Last Month: Inspections, documentation, & planning. This is the first actual work event!

Contact: John Erdkamp

Email - gpsman1@yahoo.com

Phone - 408.643.4418

Notes: For ages 14 and older.

- The project includes sanding, priming, minor repairs, and painting.
- All abilities can help out.
- You are not required to stay the whole time. Any amount of time is appreciated.

Spotlight on July Operations

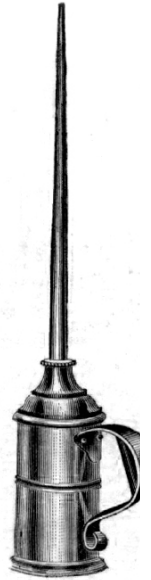
Update on Memorial Day. We hauled 3,093 people! Ardenwood held its annual Memorial Day Open House (Free Day) on May 25. Attendance this year was very heavy, rivaling the Park's busiest days. Our trains were as busy or busier than during Railfair. We ran 30 trips and hauled 3,093 passengers! From the first train to the last there were long lines at both stations. Almost all trains became "one-way only" due to the demand. In spite of the crowds, Park visitors were happy and many thanked the train crew.

We had sufficient staff to fully crew the train and there were docents at both station platforms. This allowed us to provide much appreciated breaks for the crew. Docents at each station were able to explain the one-way trip situation in advance, which helped immensely. The train crew was made up of John Stutz, Andrew Cary, Gene Arrillaga, John Erdkamp, Kristi Hanf, Jack Burgess, Bob Dike, Ken Underhill, Alex Oberg, Jared Kelsey, and Sarah. Thanks to everyone for their efforts!

We will have three Saturday operating days in July: July 4 (Fourth of July Celebration), July 18 (Rail Adventure Day), and July 25 (Ardenwood's 30th Birthday-Free Day). We will need volunteer crews to help the regular operating crew, or fully staff each. Saturday July 4 in particular may be very busy. Hope to see you all out there!

Note: most operating positions require certification (skill training and safety). Please see the article on "Certification," on page 7.

Ken Underhill, Andrew Cary



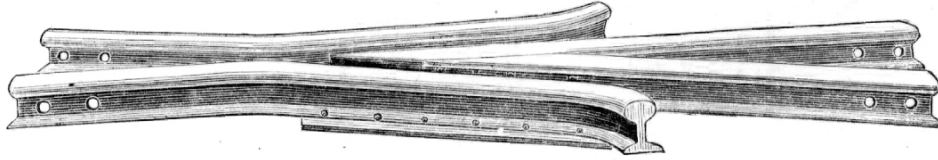
Membership Update

Thank you to all those that have renewed their annual memberships! Our annual dues remain at just \$20/ year. Your support and participation help our group meet its restoration and operation goals. We hope to hear from you soon and see you in the Park! - Please mail dues to SPCRR, PO Box 783, Newark CA 94560 - Thank You!

John Goldie / Membership Manager membership@spcrr.org

Car Barn Workdays

(**track**, restoration, and general maintenance)



Name of Work Event: Weekly Workdays at the Car Barn;
Goals for any given day vary, but can include track, restoration, and general maintenance.

Date(s): Ongoing – Most Thursdays and some Mondays (see Notes below)

Time: Email or Call (see below); contact Ken before attending.

Meet At: Car Barn - See “Directions”

Special Abilities or Work Equipment: please be aware that some work activity, especially track, involves heavy tools and parts. Some care (and physical ability) may be involved.

What to Bring: Long pants, work gloves, and steel-toe boots if you have them. Water is provided, but please bring a drinking container. If we are working on an outdoor project, bring a hat, long-sleeve shirt, and sunscreen, We generally go off-site for lunch, but you are welcome to bring your own lunch if you prefer.

Progress Last Month:

- Removed remaining plywood siding from caboose NWP 6101.
- Removed weeds in the horse area
- Cleaned out and removed flammables cabinet in the Corporation Yard
- Built an interior wall in the Wissel Car Barn to mount the dedication plaque
- Built flangeways (like guard rails, but for a road crossing) on Car Barn tracks 2 and 3.

Contact: Ken Underhill

Email - building-coordinator@spcrr.org

Phone – 925.373.6884

Notes: Everyone over the age of 14 is welcome.

- Thursdays are more common workdays and often include restoration work. Mondays have been focused on track or maintenance issues in the Park’s public areas.
- Call or email me in advance so I know how many to expect. That way I can have jobs ready when you arrive. Please include your name, cell number, and email so I can contact you if I have to cancel the date or change the time.

A Message from The Mercantile

Many thanks to everyone who came to our first Railroadiana Donation Event. It was great to have a chance to visit with all of you. A special thanks to the kind person who weedwacked the area around the “Grove of Two Trees” where we gathered. It was very pleasant sitting outside on a beautiful day – knocking, talking and watching other volunteers install flangeways at the Car Barn.

We now have plenty of railroad magazines and spikes, three lanterns, some Thomas the Tank Engine videos, a clock imbedded in a locomotive figurine, a telegraph set, plus many more items to sell at The Rail Fair Mercantile. In addition to donating a lantern from his own collection, Bruce Sorrel, our resident lantern expert, was able to quickly identify the lantern Keith Kvenvolden brought us. Mark Pizarek stopped by the Park for the very first time to donate items, and he also signed up to help on Thursdays. Thanks to Rich Neelson who sent us railroad books all the way from Rockland and to Brook Rother who delivered 60 slices of mining rail for us to sell. Jack Burgess’ donation included items from the Chili Bar Slate Mine and a bunch of tiny spikes which should be very popular with kids. Gene Arrillaga is still searching for the railroad book he planned to donate. There are only 66 days until Rail Fair!

If you couldn’t make it to this year’s Donation Event, or if you haven’t gotten around to cleaning out your garage, we’ll be glad to accept your Railroadiana donations next year. Contact Kathy at macgregork@aol.com if you have any questions, or wish to make a donation.

Kathy MacGregor



Brakeman Certification and Re-certification!

Name of Work Event: Brakeman Certification/Recertification

Date(s): Saturday, August 8, 2015

Time: 10:00 am

Meet At: Ardenwood Station

Special Abilities or Work Equipment: N/A

What to Bring: Work Gloves, Pencil/Pen, and Notebook. Water is provided, but please bring a drinking container.

Progress Last Month: N/A

Contact: Andrew Cary

Email - safety-manager@spcrr.org

Phone - 510.794.8536 or 707.340.4044

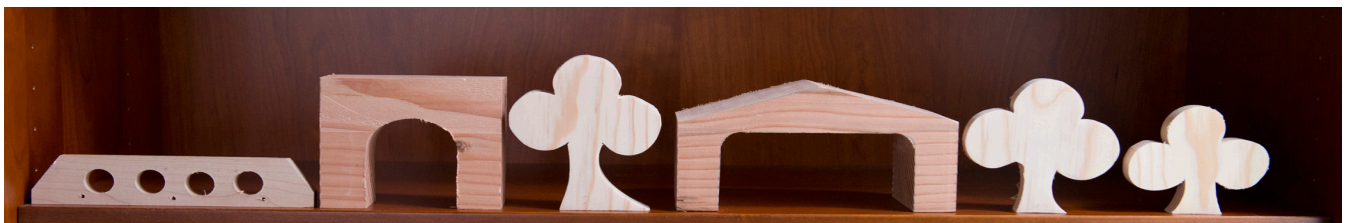
Notes: Come get certified as a Brakeman at SPCRR's Railroad Museum at Ardenwood. If you are currently a certified brakemen, please come get recertified. Training will include the SPCRR Operating Rules, basic safety, hands-on coupling and uncoupling cars, stub-switch operation, and the ever popular hands-on rolling car stopping test.

The South Pacific Coast Wooden Train Layout

Thanks to Gene Arrillaga, that jolly old elf, for using his woodworking skills to not only make the benchwork for the wooden train layout, but also the bridges, portals, trees and the arcade stations.

I'm pretty sure the best job at Rail Fair this year is going to be watching little kids drive loaner engines around the South Pacific Coast Wooden Train Layout (Alameda to Santa Cruz), and handing them a sticker when they give their engines back at the end of the trip. Of course, if they refuse to give their engines back, it might quickly become the worst job at Rail Fair. Please sign up for a short shift in the shade. A big thanks to Laura Rother for already offering to help.

Kathy MacGregor



President's Report

During June we finished leveling and ballasting Car Barn track 4, the first outside siding. We got tarps down on the alignment for track 5 and have thoroughly killed the grass and weeds. Now we can get started on its extension.

John Erdkamp suggested putting in rails to create flangeways and leveling between them on the rough driveway in front of the Car Barn. During the subsequent discussion, we realized we could make use of "rocker rail" for this by slicing through the head and web to flatten them. "Rocker rails" are curved in the vertical plane, so they are unsuited for use as track. We believe this was caused when a track lifting crew recovered the rails by lifting them from one end without pulling any spikes. We have at least enough to do the immediate driveway. John started this project on the 18th and completed track 3 that same day, and Track 2 on June 20. He could have all three finished by the time you get this issue of the Hotbox.

The weekday crew has made good progress on cleaning up our mess in the Park's Corp Yard. They have also been taking care of many of the "minor improvements" that are making the Car Barn more habitable. Ken is to be commended for keeping up the progress announcements on the spcrr_members@yahoo.com list. If you haven't already joined, request to join that list to keep up-to-date on weekly events.

NPC/NWP Caboose restoration: The siding has been removed to expose the side frame. With two full panels screwed back on to retain longitudinal stability, we have added a single interior cross frame to retain lateral stability. Upon inspection, we found that the car's superstructure frame has relatively little strength in either direction, being dependent on the sheathing being well tied to the side sills for much of its strength. Daryl DiBitonto has been hired to create a complete set of AutoCAD engineering drawings for the caboose as it is now and as it will appear when completed. And we have blacksmith parts (grab irons, etc.) being fabricated at a commercial blacksmith shop in Oregon for delivery around Labor Day. The caboose project will be mostly in abeyance until the drawings are complete and the restoration report is finished.

John Erdkamp will be leading the boxcar 472 repainting project. This car requires only minimal repair, so we hope the project will go quickly so that we can display the car at Rail Fair. Check out John's 472 workdays, on page 3.

John Stutz
President, SPCRR

Flangeway rails have been installed on tracks 2 & 3. Track 1 will be completed in the near future. Then additional ballast will be added to pave a level driving surface approximately 30 feet wide in front of the car barn. Help provided by Ken U. Bruce S. Randy H. Dave Fisher, John Erdkamp

Photo: John Erdkamp



Volunteering at The Museum

A few simple guidelines

- 1. We are a real, operating railroad. Like a real railroad, some volunteer positions require “Certification” (specialized training or safety instruction). For example, the positions of brakeman, conductor, hand car operator, and driver on the train crew must receive an initial Certification course, followed by a yearly “Recertification” course (see page 7). However most positions do not require that you be certified. You just need to be 14 years of age or older.**
- 2. Volunteers do all of the track work, car restoration, general maintenance and a host of other tasks at the museum. We train on the job, and new volunteers are always welcome.**
- 3. When you volunteer for public operation (for example at Rail Fair), you need a period costume. In the August Hotbox, we’ll publish a guide to how easy it is to put together an appropriate costume for the museum – and still remain comfortable and cool.**
- 4. If you are new to the group, we have a new feature—a Greeter at “Featured” workdays (like the 472 painting project advertised on page 3). The Greeter will be happy to answer questions, introduce you to the workday leader, and ask you to sign a legal release if you’re not a member of the group. The greeter may not be the same person at each work day, but look for a friendly face and striped engineer’s pants! You’ll be welcomed like one of the family.**
- 5. Workdays are informal. Everyone is there to have fun (bring a friend), but please be safe. We work with heavy railroad equipment and tools, and our goal is zero injuries at the end of each workday. And, most important, we’d like you to come back. And your friend too.**
- 6. Make sure you leave your address (email or snail mail) with the Greeter, and ask to be put on the Hotbox subscription list.**
- 7. Browse this issue of Hotbox for workday or activity opportunities— find one that intrigues you– and please come out to work and play!**

Directions For All Workdays:

Volunteers cannot drive beyond the regular Park entrance parking lot after 10:00 am on days that the Park is open to the public (everyday except Mondays). When the Park is open, we must use the “Siward gate” in the Park’s north fence close to the Car Barn. Here’s the easy way to reach the Car Barn when the park is “open”:

From I-880:

Take I-880 to the Dumbarton Freeway/Route 84 West toward the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Newark Blvd/Ardenwood Blvd and turn right onto Ardenwood Blvd. Continue 1 mile (past the Ardenwood entrance) and turn right onto Paseo Padre Pkwy at the traffic signal. Continue 1 mile on Paseo Padre Pkwy and turn right at the traffic signal onto Siward Dr (just before the I-880 overpass). The gate into the Park is at the end of Siward Drive at Ridgewood Dr. The gate will be chained but not locked. Once you enter the gate, proceed on the gravel road toward the left and park your vehicle at the Car Barn. Please close the gate behind you, but do not lock.

From Highway 101 on the Peninsula:

Take Highway 101 to Route 84 East over the Dumbarton Bridge. Exit at Newark Boulevard/Ardenwood Blvd and turn left onto Ardenwood Blvd. Continue 1 mile (past the Ardenwood entrance) and turn right onto Paseo Padre Pkwy at the traffic signal. Continue 1 mile on Paseo Padre Pkwy and turn right at the traffic signal onto Siward Dr (just before the I-880 overpass). The gate into the Park is at the end of Siward Dr at Ridgewood Dr. Once you enter the gate, proceed on the gravel road toward the left and park your vehicle at the Car Barn.

Calendar Look-Ahead for July/August/September

Sat, July 4, 9:30 am, report to Ardenwood Station - SPECIAL EVENT/Independence Day at Ardenwood. Volunteer Crew needed for Train Rides

Fri, July 10, 7 pm, at Burgess home - Board of Directors Meeting (send items in advance to president@spcrr.org)

Sat, July 11, 10 am, report to Car Barn -- 472 Repainting, see article on page 3

Sat, July 11, 10 am, report to Car Barn -Alternate Activity will be track 5 extension

Sat, July 11, 6 pm, at the Park Grainary - BBQ & General Meeting for members & volunteers (family members welcome)

Sat, July 18, 9:30 am, report to Ardenwood Station - Rail Adventure Day. Volunteer Crew needed for Train Rides. Possible track work in front of Car Barn (installing flangeways at doors, or track 5 extension)

Sat, July 25, 9:30 am, report to Ardenwood Station - Ardenwood's 30th Birthday/Free Day. Volunteer Crew needed for Train Rides

Sat, July 25, 5:30 pm, at Burgess home in Newark - Kickoff for Haunted Train, see article on pg 2 (for details, email jack_burgess@spcrr.org or call 510.797.9557)

Sat, Aug 1, 9:30 am, report to Car Barn - Track Day: Track 5 extension

Sat, Aug 8, 10 am, report to Car Barn - Restoration Day: Boxcar 472 Repainting

Sat, Aug 8, 10 am, report to Ardenwood Station – Certification, see article on page 7

Sat, Aug 15, 9 am, report to Ardenwood Station - SPECIAL EVENT/Cajun/Zedeco Festival. Volunteer Crew needed for Train Rides

Sat thru Fri Aug 29-Sept 4 - Rail Fair Setup (time/location TBA in August Hotbox)

Sat thru Mon Sept 5-7, 9:30 am, report to Ardenwood Station - SPECIAL EVENT/ Washington Township Rail Fair, see article on page 2

Tues, Sept 8, Rail Fair cleanup (time/location TBA in August Hotbox)

Note: Car Barn Workdays are held most Thursdays and some Mondays, see pg 5