

The Hotbox is designed to update members, volunteers, and the general public about activities, work events, and volunteer opportunities at the museum. Questions or comments can be directed to the Assistant Editor at: info@spcrr.org.

The Museum's mission is the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of regional narrow gauge railroad history, including Carter Brothers—a pioneer railroad car builder in California. The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood is located at Ardenwood Historic Farm, 34600 Ardenwood Blvd., Fremont, California.



A special holiday dinner and presentation for all our members and volunteers

The annual Holiday Dinner (provided by Dino's), General Meeting/Election of Officers, with a program by special guest, Michael Campbell, will be held on **Saturday, December 2 at 6:00 p.m. in the Granary at Ardenwood Historic Farm.**

This year we were very fortunate to get Michael Campbell, President Emeritus of the Carolwood Pacific Historical Society, to host a multimedia presentation titled "A Railroad Runs Through It: The Life and Lessons of Walter Elias Disney." Michael explores how Walt Disney's love of railroading influenced his personal life, his work and the world as we know it. Learn about the miniature railroad that the Disneys had at their Holmby Hills residence, the trains that operate on the Disneyland Railroad, and more! Michael will also share behind-the-scenes stories and pictures from the creation of the Walt Disney Family Museum in San Francisco.

If you need directions to Ardenwood's Granary, please send an email to the address below or call and we will send you a map.



It is <u>very important</u> that you RSVP so we can order a dinner for you. email: info@spcrr.org or call 510~797~9557

NOTICE: The December issue of the *Hotbox* will be delayed. You will receive a December/January edition of the Hotbox at the beginning of January.

Redwood for Restoration Fund

ONLY \$3,768 LEFT TO GO!

Fund Goal: \$12,000. Total raised as of 10/30/17 = \$8,232

Please help us reach our goal before December 31st!

Donations to the Redwood Fund received: September-October 2017

Under \$1,000:

\$112 - Donations received for Rail Fair Hobo Game popsicles

\$1,000 and Above:

\$1,000 - Brad Hanson

Donations can be made on our website using **PayPal** (you do not need a PayPal account to use a credit card). Click on "**Donate**" at the top of our Home page (or **click here**). Once you make a donation, you can print a tax receipt.

Personal checks or corporate checks should be made out to "SPCRR" and mailed to: SPCRR, PO Box 783, Newark, CA 94560. A donation acknowledgment letter will be sent to you for tax purposes.

SPCRR is a verified 501[c][3] non-profit corporation YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

If you have any questions, please email info@spcrr.org or call 510-797-9557

\$12,000 \$11,000 \$10,000 \$9,000 \$8,000 \$7,000 \$6,000 \$5,000 \$4,000 \$3,000 \$2,000 \$1,000

Target cars for Redwood For Restoration Fund



South Pacific Coast caboose 47. First car acquired by the Museum. Built as part of a series of four caboose cars in the summer of 1882 by Carter Brothers in Newark for the South Pacific Coast Railroad. Long considered the flagship of our collection, SPC 47 is now undergoing a study phase, in which detailed research and background information is developed before beginning restoration work.



South Pacific Coast box car 444. One of three sister cars, 444 (along with 472 & SP 10) was built by Carter Bros. in 1880 for the Oregonian Railway. The three cars were built to the same basic dimensions, but 444 was a unique double-door box car, equipped with both solid side doors, and ventilator side doors. From a common birth, our three 1880 Carter box cars will be restored to reflect the differences that use and time brought to their unusually long life spans.



Monterey & Salinas Valley boxcar. The oldest known Carter Brothers car, this ancient boxcar was built in Monterey in 1874, part of a fleet of eight boxcars constructed for the fledgling Monterey & Salinas Valley Railroad. Rated at just 8 tons capacity, a modern flatbed truck can haul more payload. But this car, perhaps the oldest narrow gauge boxcar in America, helped launch the narrow gauge movement in California and helped establish Carter Brothers as a player in the West Coast railroad supply business.

Kathy MacGregor, Donations Manager

We Now Have a Tractor!

At the May 2017 Board meeting, Andy Cary and John Stutz presented a summary of options for replacing our tired weed mower. The prices were all in the range of \$2,000. The discussion evolved into other options such as the purchase of a used front-end loader tractor, when Board member **Gary Smith** offered a \$5,000 donation toward the purchase of a tractor. With a power take off, spreader box and mower attachment, such a tractor would be capable of mowing, dumping ballast, grading roadbed, etc. The Board agreed and Brook Rother and David Waterman were



Photo: Brook Rother

tasked with finding one that fit our needs and pocketbook.

They quickly discovered that tractors listed on Craigslist disappear quickly! After a few tries, they were successful and Brook was able to get a great used Case 480LL tractor with low hours which will more than meet our needs.

Trade for #4 Track Frogs and Donation of a Track Maintenance Push Car

In August, the Board approved the trade of Katie's old gas engine (after the new diesel engine has been installed) for a pair of #4 track frogs. The frogs will be used in the storage yard. **John Goldie** arranged this trade and delivered the frogs to Ardenwood on September 1st. It was 115 degrees at the pick up point, and 110 at the park when he arrived. John also obtained a push car that he has donated to the Museum for track work. Thank you John for arranging this trade and for the pickup and delivery; and also for the donation of the push car!



Push car with the #4 track frogs. Photo: John Goldie

More welcome additions to our Museum



After setting up and taking down the SPCRR Children's Activities for three days at Rail Fair this year, **Woody Ballard** donated his customized hand truck to us. This will make set-up and takedown easier for us in the future, but it's doubtful that any one of us will ever be able to operate the hand truck as efficiently as Woody.



David Waterman was not only our Engineer for all six nights of Haunted Railroad this year, he also donated a small sail boat to the event. On nights when we didn't have volunteers to be pirates, the boat was filled with skeletons dressed as pirates. Argh!



In October, five-year-old Eleanor MacGregor took her grandfather, **Bruce MacGregor**, to see 4449 in Portland. While there, Bruce found a copy of the The Railroad Car Builder's Dictionary 1879 which he has donated to our Museum collection.

HAUNTED RAILROAD The final fundraiser for 2017

Kathy MacGregor, Volunteer Coordinator

or six nights in October, 3,250 visitors went where thousands of visitors have gone before—into the Haunted Woods at Ardenwood. **All trains were sold out! THANK YOU to everyone who made the Haunted Railroad a huge success!** See some of our volunteers in action on pages 5 through 6.

The Village and Displays in the Haunted Woods

were created and maintained this year by Andy Cary and John Stutz with help from Scott Ekstrom, Tony Peters, Stuart Guedon, Colin Taylor, Ken Underhill, David Waterman, Jack Burgess and J. Burgess. A detailed account of their amazing accomplishment is outlined under the Weekly Work Days section on pages 9 and 10.

Haunted Railroad Support and Pumpkin Display

Ticket Seller: Jack Burgess

Voucher Taker: Don Marenzi, Colin Taylor

Online Ticket Sales: J. Burgess

Volunteer Coordinators: Bruce & Kathy MacGregor

Haunted Train Announcer and Station Agent: Judy Pappas, Barry Lependorf Sound System: Robert Boyer, Jack Burgess, Jay Martinez, David Waterman

Generator: Robin Frank

Ghost Chaser (Glow Stick) Sellers: Judy Churchill, Alice Evarts, Kathy Krueger

Pumpkin Carvers: Ruth and Henry Tyson

Haunted Railroad Train Crew

Engineer: David Waterman

Conductors: Andy Cary, John Erdkamp, Ron Quilici

Brakepeople: Andy Cary, Stuart Guedon, Rich Nealson, Tony Peters, Ron Quilici

Once on board the Haunted Railroad, visitors were entertained by . . .

the **Spooky Tale** created and narrated by **Bill Ekstrom**; our famous fresh-from-the-coven **Witch of Ardenwood**, **Beth Cary**; a tragic never-to-be-wed **Ghost Bride**, **Ashley**, always in search of her long lost Groom; the dutiful **Ghost Bride's Bridesmaid**, **Siret**; the **Ghost Bride's Flower Girl**, **Sophia**; the treasure-seeking **Pirates**, **Scott**, **Scotty and Holly Ekstrom**; pumpkin-haunting **Ghosts**, **Julie and Sophia Boyer**; the energetic **Light Stick Couple**, **Joe and Ryan**, who lit up the woods with their dancing; one gregarious **Grave Digger**, **John Stutz**; everybody's favorite **Graveyard Ghoul**, **Bob Stutz**; and the seven **Chance Gang** family members: **Andy Cary**, **Woody Ballard**, **Lorrie Dotson**, **Colin Taylor**, **Ken Underhill**, **Joe**, **Johnathon**, and **Ryan**.





The famous Witch of Ardenwood (Beth Cary). Photo: Thomas, Tri City Voice newspaper

Pumpkin haunting Ghosts (Julie & Sophia Boyer) Photo: Thomas, Tri City Voice newspaper





Two of the Chance Gang members (Andrew Cary amd Woody Ballard). Photo:Thomas,Tri City Voice newspaper



From left to right: Ashley, Beth Cary, Sophia, Scott Ekstrom, Holly, Kenny, and Siret

Photo: Kathy Krueger



Ghost Chaser Salesperson Extraordinaire (Kathy Krueger). Photo: J. Burgess



Master pumpkin carvers Ruth and Henry Tyson carved over 20 pumpkins



Everyone's Favorite Ghoul (Bob Stutz).

Photo: J. Burgess



Gregarious Grave Digger (John Stutz).

Photo: J. Burgess

Haunted Railroad - Tales from the Ticket Window

Jack Burgess, Vice President

orking in the ticket window during the first weekend of the Haunted Railroad was both fun and rewarding. I have a few good stories to tell...

Entitled to free tickets?

A man came to the ticket window and told me that he felt that he was entitled to some free tickets to the Haunted Railroad. His explanation: he came to the Park the previous weekend since he saw the Haunted Railroad sign on the fence near the gate and thought that tickets were for sale that evening (they are only available when we operate the Haunted RR). But when he left, he found that the front gate was locked and he had to call the park police to let him out. I told him that advertising for Park events always goes up before the

actual day of an event and that I was sorry that he got locked in, but I couldn't give him free tickets for his misfortune. I didn't ask him why he was in the Park so late that the gates were locked when he tried to leave. During the month of October, the gate does not get locked until after 7 pm when the Perry Farm's pumpkin patch closes and Perry's employees leave. Maybe I should have suggested that he ask them for a free pumpkin!

Which side to sit on

Another evening I was walking back to the ticket window when a couple of men realized that I was a train volunteer and asked me to settle a wager they were having. They were discussing which side of the railroad car they should sit on to get the best view of the Witch of Ardenwood. Keep in mind that in the past, the Witch has been on the north side of the tracks in the forest. One gentleman was arguing that they needed to sit on the north

Tickets
SOLD OUT
All trains, all
nights

side of the car since the Witch was on the north side. The other was trying to make him understand that they needed to sit on the south side of the car since the train went through two curves which meant that the sides would be reversed by the time the train entered the woods. Unfortunately, I had to tell the first gentlemen that his friend was correct that the south side of the car became the north side of the car once the train entered the woods. But I also had to tell the second gentlemen that while he was correct for last year, we moved the Witch to the other side of the tracks this year! So neither one was correct!

Karma

One evening a woman paid for some Ghost Chasers (glow sticks) with a \$5 bill, but then insisted that she had paid with a \$20 bill. Kathy and her friend Judy at the Glow Stick table argued that the woman was mistaken, but in order to end the confrontation they reluctantly give her \$15 in change. I heard about the issue but was able to share a "Karma" story with them the next day. Probably an hour after this incident occurred, a woman walking past the ticket window picked up a folded \$20 bill laying right on the ground. She turned and asked me if I knew who might have dropped it. I told her that I didn't, but that since we are a nonprofit I would be happy to put it in the cash box. She happily handed it to me. Karma?

A Feel-Good Story

By Sunday night, the number of tickets still available for that evening (as well as the following weekend) was in very short supply. A woman came to the ticket window asking for two tickets but we didn't have any. As she sadly stepped away, another woman stepped up to redeem her Eventbrite online tickets and mentioned that she had purchased six tickets for the train ride but only needed four. Fortunately, the woman who needed just two tickets overheard her and asked if she could purchase them. Instead, the woman refused any payment and simply gave the woman the extra tickets. An hour later, I happened to see the woman who received the tickets walking past the ticket window and I asked her about her train ride. She yelled out "It was great and we have a new friend!"

I received many compliments about your crew and staff. Great job with the Halloween Train!

Lynn Philpott, Park Supervisor/Ardenwood

A special invitation for all SPCRR members, volunteers and friends...



Report on October 2017 Board Meeting

Jack Burgess, SubstituteSecretary

WP refrigerator car – The President of the Northern Nevada Railroad Museum has indicated that they don't currently have the funds to move this car since the cost to pick up the car with a crane is estimated at \$8,000. An option suggested at the meeting is for our group to crib it up for their trailer for a donation of \$5,000 from NNRM.

Katie engine replacement – President Stutz was authorized to sign a contract with Brooks Locomotive Works to install our new diesel engine in Katie during the upcoming off-season.

Buda hand car – President Stutz was authorized to sign this agreement with George Thagard and Bruce MacGregor for the use and preservation of the Buda hand car.

Cargo Container – This purchase was postponed to provide time to hopefully get the WP refrigerator car out of the Corp. Yard.

Operational Changes – The Board discussed several potential issues about our current operations including the use of historic vs. non-historic rolling stock, ground loading vs. the use of platforms for loading, and track improvements. These discussions will continue at future Board meetings.

Weekly Workdays

Track, Restoration & General Maintenance

Ken Underhill

Date(s): Thursdays and Saturdays **Time:** Email or Call (see below)

Meet At: Car Barn ~ See "Directions" on the last page

Special Abilities or Work Equipment: N/A

What to Bring: Long pants, work gloves, and steel-toe boots (if you have them). Water is provided. 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 or eat at the Farmyard Café if you prefer.

PROGRESS LAST MONTH:

Saturday Sep 31. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Stutz, A Cary, J Burgess, S Guedon, C Taylor, D Waterman

Haunted Train Prep: Haunted Village moved from storage in corp yard, sorted and erected in woods. Pirate boats moved to scenes in woods.

Sunday Oct 1. Ticket Sales/Haunted Railroad

Attendees: J Burgess

Online sales started and continued until tickets sold out (before 1st weekend). 3~4 hours a day was spent processing tickets, refunds, calls, emails, etc.

Thursday Oct 5. Restoration Day/Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: A Cary, T Peters, K Underhill

Restoration: T Peters finished adding 'keys' to B-end platform bolts.

- -A Cary continued work on removing rotted wood around left side windows.
- -A Cary treated all newly exposed wood with Boracare.
- -A Cary and T Peters worked on fitting the A-end replacement bolster.

Haunted Train Prep: Painted 2 new prototype Haunted Village flats for Haunted Train. These are lighter weight flats used for building 'sides' to block views of village props.

Saturday Oct 7. Haunted Railroad Prep Day/ Restoration Day (Also Harvest Festival)

Attendees: J Burgess, A Cary, S Ekstrom, S Guedon, J Goldie, R Nealson, B Rother, J Stutz, C Taylor, K Underhill, D Waterman

Restoration: B Rother and R Nealson did assessment work on SP 47 and NWP 6161 and looked for missing top bearing parts for castings. A Cary treated all newly exposed wood with Boracare.

Haunted Train Prep-Village: J Stutz and A Cary made an additional four Haunted Village flats. J Burgess, K Underhill, and S Guedon painted the flats; then new flats were transported to woods.

Lighting fixtures and extension cables were pulled from storage and were sorted and tested. Incandescent and CFL bulbs replaced with LED floods to reduce wattage used.

MOW/Other: I Goldie sorted joint bars and cleaned the iron storage area, cleaned car barn.

Sunday Oct 8. Haunted Railroad Prep Day (Also Harvest Festival)

Attendees: J Stutz, A Cary

New Haunted Village flats erected in woods. Signs placed at park entrance.

Monday, Oct. 16. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, D Waterman.

David worked on consist and installed platform for generator. Jack worked out wiring for speakers and components, tested speakers and wireless microphones. Microphones didn't work well, so ordered new brand.

Tuesday, Oct. 17. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, D Waterman.

Installed speakers and wired components. David created wooden box for sound system components with lockable doors.

continued next page

Wedsnesday, Oct. 18. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, D Waterman.

Installed new wireless microphones; new wiring; soldered plug connections to make easier to plug and unplug components each night. Installed platform on ballast car for generator.

Thursday, Oct. 19. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, A Cary, B Cary, B Ekstrom, S Ekstrom, S Guedon, Ron Q, D Waterman, J Stutz, C Taylor, K Underhill

Laid out extension cords, tested generators, laid out inflatables, props, and lighting. Worked on new sound system; installed LED lights on train for Chance Gang. In evening did a test run, light check, and sound check of hand-held and clip-on wireless microphones.

Thursday, Oct. 26. Haunted Railroad Prep Day

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, A Cary, B Cary, D Waterman; Installed and successfully tested 3rd wireless microphone system.

Sunday, Oct 29. Haunted Railroad After Event Cleanup

Attendees: J Burgess, Jack Burgess, A Cary, B Cary, S Ekstrom, S Guedon, R Quilici, J Stutz, C Taylor, K Underhill, D Waterman

David pulled up flat car 64, and the volunteers boxed up and loaded all of the displays, which was then transported to the Car Barn for the night. Thank you everyone who stayed until 11:30pm to get everything out of the woods.

Haunted Railroad Event - see article in this Hotbox. A special thank you to all volunteers who helped setup before and after the event each night.

WORK PLANNED FOR NEXT MONTH

Join our **Yahoo SPCRR_members** group for the latest information! Details how to join are shown in the blue box on the last page of the *Hotbox*. **For directions to workdays**, email info@spcrr.org, or call 510-797-9557.

- Thursdays and some Saturdays Miscellaneous Projects. For more information, contact Ken Underhill at 925-373-6884 or email kcunderhill@yahoo.com.
- Thursdays and some Saturdays Caboose 6101 Project Manager: Gene Arrillaga. For more information contact Gene at 510-657-8733 (home) or email arrillaga@sbcglobal.net.
- Various Days Track work/MoW Projects Project Managers: John Goldie, David Waterman. Schedule either a Thursday or Saturday to join David at the Park; or a Saturday or Sunday to join John Goldie. For more information contact David at 415-602-7377(cell) or email steamfreak22@gmail.com; contact John at rolajohn@aol.com.
- Various Days Locomotives Project Manager: David Waterman. Work on locomotives. See above notice for contact info.
- Usually the 2nd Saturday of Every Month Monthly Restoration Saturday Project Manager: Brook Rother. Work on current projects, including wooden car restoration and/or locomotives. To find out this month's projects, contact Brook at 530-559-4249 (cell).

All dates and changes will be announced on the Yahoo SPCRR_members group. See blue box on the last page for instructions on how to join. If you have trouble joining, call Ken at the number/email below.

Contact: Ken Underhill

Email: kcunderhill@yahoo.com

Phone: 925~373~6884

Notes:

- Everyone over the age of 18 is welcome.
- Thursdays focus on restoration work.
- 2nd Saturday of the month focuses on locomotives, restoration & misc. work.
- Please contact me in advance so I know how many to expect (prefer email). That way I can have jobs ready for you 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.

For directions or information on volunteering, please email info@spcrr.org or call 510-508-8826.

CALENDAR: November - December 2017

CALENDAR OVERVIEW: Restoration Workdays are held on <u>Thursdays</u> and <u>some Saturdays</u>. Call or email Project Manager Gene Arrillaga to check dates that he will be at the Car Barn. His email is arrillaga@sbcglobal.net or phone: 510-657-8733. **NOTE:** If you are a new volunteer, call or email your project manager **BEFORE** the workday to get instructions for entering the Siward gate (emails and phone numbers are shownbelow as well as in the *Hotbox* articles). **Any changes in dates or times are posted an the Yahoo SPCRR_Members group.** See instructions for how to join the group at the bottom of this page.

Volunteer train crews will operate the train at all SPCRR special events. If you would like to volunteer at any of these events, contact the Phone Committee (call 503-309-4701 (9am-9pm) or email macgregork@aol.com) to secure the volunteer position of your choice. Employee train crews operate the train at Park special events.

Sat, Nov 4: HAUNTED RAILROAD TAKE-DOWN - Sort and Stow Workday. Meet at 10 am at the Car Barn. Call Andy Cary (510- 324-6817-cell) for more information.

MONDAY, Nov 6: HAUNTED RAILROAD TAKE-DOWN - Villlage. WE NEED 4 PEOPLE MINIMUM Meet at 10 am at the Car Barn or look for us in the woods. IMPORTANT: CALL ANDY FIRST IF YOU PLAN TO COME TO HELP--the plan may change. Andy's number is 510-324-6817.

Sun, Nov 19: Last day of Operation

Sat, Dec 2 – SPCRR'S AWESOME ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY for Members and Volunteers plus their spouses or significant others. YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL PROGRAM presented by MICHAEL CAMPBELL! There will be a free dinner to thank all of you for a great season, and a very brief General Meeting and Election. Michael Campbell is our guest speaker this year and he has a wonderful presentation on Walt Disney. See page I for more info. Dinner wll be served at 6 pm in the Granary at Ardenwood. Please RSVP by November 22 so we can order a dinner for you: email: info@spcrr.org, or call 510-797-9557. Let us know if you have any questions or need directions to the Granary.

IMPORTANT: We will have numerous workdays in the off-season to upgrade our track and do other safety improvements. Workdays will be announced on our Yahoo group: "SPCRR_Members." To join our group, see the directions in the box below.

April 1,2018 - First day of Operation

How to sign up for the YAHOO SPCRR_Members group to receive announcements and updates! We post announcements and workday updates on the SPCRR_Members group on Yahoo Groups. It is free to join. You just need a free Yahoo email account. To join & receive emails, send an email to "spcrr_members-subscribe@yahoogroups.com" and include your name and your Yahoo email address. If you have any problem, call Ken Underhill at 925-373-6884 or email kcunderhill@yahoo.com.

New SPCRR Members

John Goldie, Membership Manager

SPCRR has three new members! All used the new PAYPAL method on our website to sign up. Give it a try to renew your membership in 2018. Of course you can also send a check if you prefer (mail to: SPCRR, PO Box 783, Newark, CA 94560). All dues are tax deductible... SPCRR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Welcome new members!

- Michael Campbell, Livermore, CA
- Josiah Larson, Fremont, CA
- Gary Woolard, West Hills, CA