

SPCRR Timetable

Newsletter for The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood and the Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources

August-September 2009

Volume 2 Issue 1

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SPCRR

Thank you for your patience waiting for the publication of the Timetable.

The SPCRR Timetable should be coming your way on a more regular basis in the future. The target is to produce a Timetable six times a year.

COMING SPCRR EVENTS

MOW DAYS

August 29 (Sat) and August 31 (Mon)

A special set of work days to replace the Shirley siding switch before Railfair.

RAILFAIR 2009

September 5-7 9:00AM.- 5:00PM

Work days on Sept 3 and 4 at 10:00AM.

HALLOWEEN TRAIN

October 16-18, 23-25 6:00-10:00 PM

Kick-off meeting: Sept 14 at 6:30PM at Granary

Preparation/takedown work days:

Oct 10 (Sat), 12 (Mon), and Oct. 16 (Fri)
Oct 26 (Mon) at 9:30AM

COMING EBRPD EVENTS

See the EBRPD Website for more info:
www.EBparksOnline.org.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

October 10-11

ARDENWOOD SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Sept. 12 & 13

THE FINE PRINT

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RAILFAIR 2009 IS COMING SEPTEMBER 5-7

It is that time of year again! The annual *Washington Township Railroad Fair* is coming to Ardenwood Historic Farm again.

TWO STEAM LOCOMOTIVES

This year we will have **two steam locomotives**: George and Karen Thagard's 1891 Baldwin 0-4-2 T *Deanna* will be here, and it will be joined for the inaugural running of the 1890 Porter 0-4-0T *Ann-Marie* just restored by Tom Gazsi and Gary Smith. It is not clear how the engines are going to operate together, but there is a rumor of an after hours double-header....

The G Scale modelers will take over the Farm Yard and the On30 modelers will be in the Granary with live music on the porch.

There will also be Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor displays, the children's Hobo game, music and much more!

We will also be doing restoration on NPC 5591- it might even make it into a train!



1890 Porter "Ann-Marie" - Photo by B Culp



1891 Baldwin "Deanna" - Photo by AJL Cary

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

As usual, it is 'all hands on deck!' we need volunteers to staff the trains and stations, to staff the pump-car, museum, exhibit cars, and run the Hobo game. Call Barbara Culp at (510) 785-1343 or email her at general-manager@spcrr.org

This event is a lot of fun – it is an interpretive event, so bring your vest and hat and try to look 'period'. Bib overalls and bluejeans are good, but please – no shorts and tee-shirts....

GENERAL MEETING & PIZZA SUNDAY NIGHT

This year's general meeting and Railfair pizza dinner is Sunday, September 6th at the banquet area in Ardenwood starting around 6:00 PM.

PREPARATION WORKDAYS

A lot of MOW preparation has been done already, however more needs to be done. Bruce MacGregor is leading a work party on August 29th, 31st and possibly September 1st to rebuild the mainline stub-switch at Shirley Siding with new ties and switch bridles. Setup days are September 3rd and 4th.

CARBARN NEWS

It has been a long time since news went out about the Car Barn, and this has been a frustrating and difficult period. Due to various issues we found it necessary to drop our original building supplier.

This introduced more delay into an already long and drawn-out process, but in the end it has worked to our advantage. We now have a supplier, Metal Building Company of Oakland, which will provide and erect the Car Barn and coordinate some of the other work needed. Their building is cheaper and better suited to our needs than the previous one, they are interested in what we are trying to accomplish, and have been very helpful in finalizing the design and working to get a permit.

Contract Signed with Metal Building

We signed the contract with Metal Building Company on Friday July 31, and on Monday August 24 they met with the City of Fremont to re-submit the building permit application. We may well have a permit in hand by Railfair!!

Still more funding needed

Metal Building Company is very eager to begin construction and would like to start as soon as possible. However, while we have a substantial portion of the funds needs for the building, we don't have quite enough to complete the project, and there are many extras, like a fenced yard, that are not yet funded. So we need to again appeal to the membership for contributions. It is thanks to your generosity that the project has gotten this far, and it is finally nearing fruition.

Once the permit is in hand we will be making a more formal appeal for funds both within our group and to others. We have also been exploring grant possibilities and will continue to do so.

Ken Underhill, President SPCRR

HALLOWEEN TRAIN IS COMING SOON October 16th-18th and 23rd-25th

The Halloween Train is the biggest annual fundraiser event conducted by the SPCRR. It is a 'haunted railroad' that takes over our track on the two weekends of October before Halloween. The north wood becomes haunted by a witch, ghosts, pirates, Billy Bones, the Widow Waites and the inept train robbers the Chance Brothers.



Entering the Haunted Forest - photo by AJL Cary

To get ready we have to set up a frontier village, a graveyard, witches lair, inflatables, generators, lights, and infrastructure. The train has to be set up with sound and lighting and the front station decorated and set up for crowd control.

The Haunted Train needs you!

To run the train we need engineers, brakemen, station masters, narrators, actors for the scenes (no experience needed), sound man, generator tenders, setup/take down crews, popcorn and "ghost-chaser" sellers, ticket sales staff, pumpkin carvers, and decorators.



The Witch Wants You! - photo by AJL Cary

Kickoff meeting

Come help us, there is a organizational meeting September 14th at the Granary at 6:30PM. Contact Andy Cary at (510)794-8536 (email: safety-manager@spcrr.org) or Barb Culp at (510) 785-1343 (email: general-manager@spcrr.org)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE MUSEUM

Additions to the Collection- Powerline shafting from the Colusa & Lake RR Engine house

Special thanks to Gene and Donna Arrillaga for their help in unloading the Colusa engine house line shafts on Sunday. This power line shafting was salvaged from one of the Colusa & Lake RR engine houses in Colusa, which were recently torn down to salvage the lumber.

Herb Corbet alerted us to the tear down, and to the existence of some line shafting, and put us in touch with Pat Kittle, who was directing the work. Mr Kittle was agreeable to taking the extra effort to recover the shafting, and sell it to us for approximately scrap price. After several delays, I got up to Colusa on Saturday to pick it up.

We got one 23' main shaft, which I had to cut in two to carry. There are two about 11' secondary shafts, and two individual machine drive shifters. We still need to remove the shaft brackets from the large shafts. Several of the wheels are wooden, and will need protected storage. One wooden wheel has disintegrated down to the hub but we have much of the pieces. We also got a belt driven threading machine and some of the dies for it.

The Colusa & Lake engine houses consisted of two double track structures, oriented end on to the turntable, and occupying about 1/6th of a city block SW of the corner of 8th and Main. One house was rectangular and the other had 5 sides to fit it into the block. I photographed them on a couple occasions about 20

years ago, but never got in, and was not aware of the shafting.

The C&L closed in the teens, and the engine houses were taken over as part of a machine shop complex that ran into at the least the 1950's, and probably a couple decades more. The engine houses had long since been relegated to dead storage by the time I found them. I doubt that anyone actually knows if this shafting came from the original RR facility, or was installed later, but I suspect the former.

John Stutz, Maintenance of Way Manager

Rebranding the SPCRR Railroad Museum

Observant readers will have noticed a change in the Timetable's header. The SPCRR's museum at Ardenwood is 'rebranding' itself to **The Railroad Museum at Ardenwood**. The Society for the Preservation of Carter Railroad Resources is the 'parent' organization for the museum.

The new name will provide an easy to recognize name for the museum and it's mission. It will also improve the SPCRR's ability to reach out to individuals and corporations for support.

The name was chosen to reflect common usage in the community for example: "The SPCRR operates *the railroad museum at Ardenwood*..."

This is purely a rebranding and no organizational changes are planned.

AJLCary

MOW Work

John Stutz organized a number of maintenance of way work days this summer to realign and ballast the curve at end-of-track. The curve into the new yard area has been surveyed, the old track dismantled, the new ROW graded, the track relaid, and ballasted as far as the entry into the new yard. This was a lot of



Spiking Track - photo by AJLCary

'heavy-lifting' and thanks are due to the volunteers (and the bobcat) that made it possible. Too many people helped to list all the names here, but you know who you are. Thank you.

In addition, the ROW is being cleaned up in preparation for Railfair and the Halloween train. Work parties have removed weeds and vegetation away from the track and picked up cuttings and branches through the grove to cut down on fire hazard. The debris picked up in the North Wood alone filled large dumpster.



Ballasting the track - photo by AJLCary

AJL Cary

Garden Tractor Donation

Steve Cary of Cary Construction Company donated a 1984 era Craftsman Garden Tractor/Riding Mower to the SPCRR MOW. This has already been used to mow weeds along the ROW and in the grove. The 16hp tractor may also be used as a light duty tractor to do light grading and possibly even pull ties.

Katie has a new Bell

Thanks to Bob Hertz and Trader Joes's for donating and Gene Arillaga for making a demountable harp and mounting for the new bell on our Plymouth Switcher "Katie".

New Hazmat Signage



New hazardous materials signage is magically appearing around the museum. This definitely not historic signage has been put on storage containers and locations in response to a recent inspection by the Fremont Fire Department.

The little diamond shaped signs indicate the type of material and it's hazard levels to public safety and fire fighting staff.

DO NOT REMOVE THESE SIGNS without checking with the Safety Manager first.

AJL Cary, Safety Manager

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Address



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