

Trolley Barn Newsletter

July 2009

By Bob Schneider

Holidays: None in August

Special Events: (details to follow later)

12 August: HSJ Annual Volunteers Picnic and Recognition

20 August: CTRC Annual Volunteer Picnic and Recognition

Make A Wish: Last December Elaine Kauffmann (past HSJ Education Director) asked me if we would participate in a Make A Wish event. Sure! The wish of Henry Mulvey is to ride as many old trolleys as he can. On July 7 Henry rode on a New Orleans car in San Francisco among others. On July 8 he rode on our Cars 124 and 143 on the Museum Line and the Kelley Park Line. In fact he is the first visitor to ride Car 143 on the Kelley Park line. Henry was born with a neuromuscular Mitochondrial disease, so his mobility is restricted and he speaks with signs and “spoken” words. He was accompanied from Massachusetts by his parents and a nurse. At the start there were a few brief words of welcome, but Henry just wanted to get going. The Birney was his favorite. We gave him a few gifts afterwards while he was having ice cream at O’Brien’s. He thanked us a number of times. What a special day for everyone.

Horse Car Display: We were asked to display the Horse Car on the Alameda during their July 4th celebration. We did this two years ago and followed Gene’s proven loading technique. Gene and other CTRC members manned the table at the display for the day. The car was left on the truck at the museum until July 6. On the evening of the 4th various people asked where we got the new trolley. We’ve had it for over 10 years. Others asked if we were sending it out for repairs. We do our own repairs.

A visitor’s Experience: In early July one of our “regulars”, Anton, a 4 year old, and his father were visiting the Trolley Barn. His parents are Russian, Dad’s English is excellent, but the son is working very hard on both languages at once. Try that! We were closed that day, but I invited them in as they’ve visited us before. Anton asked why the electric trolley wasn’t running, so I got it out. Soon enough I was showing him how to operate the controls. He did very well. The next question was why the “Brio” wooden trolley wasn’t out, so I gave him the keys and let him do the job. He’s never used keys before. Then the trucker arrived to load the Horse Car (see above), so we had to open the South gate. Anton unlocked the gate and pushed it open with encouragement. Next it was the Trolley Barn doors, so Anton jumped to the challenge of a padlock and pushing heavy doors. We got Car 124 out and moved it out of the way, then pushed the Horse car to the truck with Dad’s help. The setup required a forklift which Anton knew because he has watched “Builder Bob”. Gene let Anton operate the forklift briefly. Dad and Anton left with obvious excitement at what they had done that day. We had more fun than usual as well. Our pre-school, regular visitors are a never ending source of enjoyment.

Kelley Park Line: We are working on making the last 750 feet usable. Our query to ARM (Association of Railway Museums) brought 10 suggestions as to how to handle the shallow grooves in the asphalt. We’ve rejected solvents (pollution solutions), sawing (\$800 in blades) and grunt work. We are cleaning out the dirt in the existing groove and will use the “Hot Day solution” (Tucson says it works!). Run the car on a hot day and use an auxiliary ground wire if needed. The problem is that the car wheels did not make contact with the rail. No contact, no go!

A motormen’s meeting was held July 12 to have them take the written test for the new “Book of Rules”. We have 7 present motormen and 3 trainees. Everyone did **very** well on their written test. We really need them all if we are to use the new line with any regularity. Other aspects of the new line were discussed. The grade crossing at the JFG is a new challenge to us. Late breaking news: We now have 3 qualified motormen for both lines. More to come.

The Wave Magazine: We are featured in an article in a recent issue of The Wave Magazine. This came out of nowhere, but the article is very thorough. Giving them documents that tell all about us really helped. Great pictures. Publicity!

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Gear Lube: Steve Lopes of Western States Oil has agreed to sell us at cost a case of 48 bags of special gear lube for our trolleys. He is the donor of the Kleiber, a member of the HSJ Board and a big supporter of the Museum.

Engine1215: The steam locomotive team has spent one day a week cleaning up engine 1215 and it's tender. This is cosmetic, but will go a long way toward preserving the hardware. Their biggest job is getting all the rust off. Our visitors no longer ask about "that rusty engine in the parking lot".

Motorman/Host assignments for AUGUST:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
1	Baker	Ouimett/Boehm	2	Bingham	Stallard
8	Ryan	Compton	9	Ouimett	Stallard
15	open	Schneider	16	Ryan	Raby
22	Butler	Traill	23	J. Maurer	Hansen
29	Bingham	Compton	30	Ullmann	Schneider

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Welcome from Elaine Kauffmann Photo by Jim Maurer



Henry and Dad in Car 124 Photo by Jim Maurer



Henry and Dad with Igor Photo by Jim Maurer



Welcome for Henry and His Family Photo by Jim Maurer



Henry Receiving Gifts Photo by Jim Maurer



San Jose Mercury News Article



Horse Car on the Way to the Alameda

Photo by Bob Schneider