

Trolley Barn Newsletter

November 2009

By Bob Schneider

Holiday: Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 11/26 the museum will be **closed**. On **Friday 11/27** the museum will be open, we will run the trolley and the Trolley Barn will be open.

Furlough Day: Monday, 12/7 the Museum will be closed for Staff Furlough

“History Haunt”: We participated in the History San Jose Halloween Event on 10/31. It seemed to start slow, but by 2 the place was crawling with families with many in costumes. Our trolley ridership was 1209 and Barn visitors 1063! The line waiting for trolley rides later on was 3 to 4 cars worth. As a Host in the Barn, I can tell you that we were **very** busy. The best part is that the visitors were interested in seeing what we had to offer, not just getting their treat and leaving.

Heritage Holiday: We will be actively participating in this year’s “Heritage Holiday” Event on 12/5. Hours are 10-4. Because of the larger than normal crowds expected we will;

1. Have 2 people in the Trolley Barn.
2. Run Car 124 on the Kelly Park Line only.
3. Run the hand car that we will borrow from Ardenwood as we have the past 2 years.
4. Have at least 2 “rovers” to give others a break. This is a 6 hour event, so we’ll be ready.

VTA Old trolley Operations during the holidays: VTA will not run restored trolleys during the holidays.

CAR 124 SEATS: All seats being re-caned were completed and reinstalled. More to do in the future.

OPERATIONS: On October 3 during power up Jim Maurer noticed that 124’s air compressor was running slower than usual. A quick check of the rectifier meter showed that it was running about 430 VDC instead of the normal 640 VDC. As of 9 October, after testing by a qualified electrician, the culprit was thought to be our incoming power. Several visits by PGE verified that we had lost one leg of our three phase power and it was discovered that a high voltage feeder wire to one transformer had come off. PGE quickly fixed that and we were back in business. Unfortunately this takes time, so we lost 6 weekend days of operations and 2 HTE classes. The classes will be re-scheduled. During the call with the teacher for the first cancellation it was very clear that the trolley was a must for the class. A great statement.

DETROIT ELECTRIC CAR: With a great deal of help from Terry Wilson, we now have capable, used batteries for the Detroit Electric car. Terry’s electric car club has been instrumental in helping us get the replacement batteries at no cost. We will have to buy some parts to wire the batteries together.

Melbourne Car 403: The guy that bought ½ of the car has finished fixing it up and moved it up into the Sierra foothills. He will use it as a weekend place to stay. We wish him well.

Little Buttercup: The engine was checked over for possible exposed asbestos and a few spots were remediated by John Ezovski. We had a visitor enquire recently and chose to be proactive.

Car Cleaning: It’s that time again! We will be giving the cars their annual cleaning this month.

Weighing scale: We found that some of our visitors were not happy with their weight on our weighing scale. We kid them a bit, but noticed a problem with the hardware. Closer inspection revealed that a key part was missing that did affect the measurement. We found the part, recalibrated the scale and can say that it is accurate within ½%. That’s 1 pound error for 200 pounds. Pretty good for hardware that is 75+ years old and gets beat around.

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Motorman/Host assignments for DECEMBER:

<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
5	Baker/Maurer	Schneider/Stallard	6	Ryan	Stallard
12	Ouimett	Compton	13	Ullmann	Raby
19	Butler	Traill	20	Ullmann	Compton
26	Hansen	Schneider	27	J Maurer	Stallard

“Heritage Holiday”, 12/5: Hand car – Raby and Martin, “Rovers” - Hansen, Zielinski and Larsen

HTE: 12/3 J. Maurer and Bingham