

## Trolley Barn Newsletter

December 2006

by: Bob Schneider

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**Electrification of the track to Happy Hollow:** Rod Diridon has secured an agreement with a light rail construction company, Stacy and Witbeck, to have them install the overhead wire for the track that runs down to Happy Hollow. This is a huge step forward.

**Cable Car: IT IS GONE .... !** The car was loaded on a flat bed truck and left for New York 12/6. Planning for the vacated space is in place and we will be moving things around very soon. See the pictures on another page.

**Birney:** Work on the people catchers is moving right along.

**1924 Dodge Brothers Truck:** With a new head gasket and a few other fixes, the engine is running pretty well.

**1923 American LaFrance Torpedo Fire Engine:** Reassembly of some pieces prior to painting is in progress. The frame/undercarriage returned from Elmwood 12/6 with a beautiful new paint job.

**Spare Trolley Compressor** The search continues for electrical circuit documentation.

**1927 Fairmont "Speeder:** Learning how to get the engine to run correctly continues.

**Holidays:** The museum will be completely closed for Christmas, 12/25. The staff will be on vacation 12/24 and 12/26, but the museum will be open.

The museum will be closed Monday, January 1/15

**Trolley Barn Holiday Party:** We will hold an informal Holiday Party in the Trolley Barn on **December 10** from noon to 3 PM for all CTRC members and family/friends. Please bring nibbles/snacks to share and we'll provide beverages.

**ARM Conference:** Attached is my summary of the ARM Convention.

**Trolley Barn "Annual Report":** Attached is my summary of the Trolley Barn for 2006.

**Car 2001:** Car 2001 is being operated by VTA on Saturdays only from 3 pm until 10 pm, November 25 through December 30. The route is from the Civic Center to the Downtown Mall. There is a charge.

Motorman/Host Schedule for **January:**

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<u>SAT.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>SUN.</u>	<u>Motormen</u>	<u>Host</u>
6	Baker/Huff	Bartlett	7	Bingham	Stallard
13	Baker/Huff	Boehm	14	J. Maurer	Raby
20	Baker/Huff	Traill	21	Westfall	Gaddis
27	R. Maurer	Schneider	28	Ullmann	Traill



Photo by Jim Maurer

**Arm Comments:**

This year the ARM (Association of Railway Museums) Conference was held November 8- 11 at the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento. The conference was held jointly with TRAIN, so attendance was close to 400.

Two days prior to the conference the Western Railway Museum at Rio Vista Junction offered tours/workshops with emphasis on electric railway activities to augment ARM's agenda.

Gene Martin and Bob Schneider attended an all day round table discussion on the maintenance and repair of traction air brakes. We learned how little we know about this subject, but left with an excellent set of part documentation and names of people to contact.

At ARM we attended presentations on items such as:

1. Grant writing. Covered mostly finding sources and "speaking their language".
2. Engaging younger generations that have not grown up around railroads.
3. Care and maintenance of wood bodied cars. Tips included:
  - a. Wood
    - 1) Don't use Poplar
    - 2) Use white oak for structural parts
    - 3) True Mahogany is best
    - 4) Cypress seems to be holding up well (limited experience)
    - 5) Today's lumber isn't as good as that of 100 years ago
  - b. Paint
    - 1) Polyurethane is good, but colors change too much
    - 2) Acrylic enamel holds color better

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- 3) Don't use primer. 90% of failures occur between the paint and primer.
  - c. Only 4% of the riders care about authenticity
  - d. Regardless of what paint you use, wood will take on or give off moisture (humidity or rain)
  - e. If you can, run a car so that each side is equally exposed to the elements.
4. Parts Committee. We asked if anyone had electrical diagrams for our compressor.
5. Tours
  - a. Gene Martin visited the CSRM Collections Facility. Everything except cars and locomotives are stored here. What a huge collection.
  - b. Bob Schneider visited the Siemens Production Facility (light rail cars) and the Sacramento Regional Transit Repair Facility. Car 129 (Restored by CTRC and sold to Sacramento) was on display. It has been renamed ("PG&E" and given the number "35"). It is only run on special occasions and is in great condition. No one we listened to knew exactly where it came from. We'll fix that.  
We saw older VTA cars from San Jose that will go into service starting in 2009. Their present ridership is 60,000 (compared to 40,000 for San Jose). Sacramento has started regrinding their rail head so that the wheel wear is distributed. The result is twice the life before the wheels must be resurfaced.
6. Railroad Technology and Southern Pacific Shops. A hard hat tour of the old Southern Pacific Shops was given. All of CSRM's rolling stock is now under cover and they hope to take possession of the shops and buildings by year end. The buildings are brick, over 100 years old, musty, dusty, but still intact. We saw one passenger car being restored in one of the buildings. Everyone was given a ride on their new transfer table with an idling diesel locomotive on it. Smoooooth ride. The transfer tables moves locomotives/cars between one long building and the other as well as to outside tracks at the end of the buildings.
7. In the "vendor area" we discovered the folks from Ardenwood. During the conversation we learned that
  - a. Jiggs is alive and well (rumor was that he had died). He is very much available to us. A significant part of the cost is renting a horse trailer. Ardenwood does not have one and Jiggs is pretty big. He weighs 2160 pounds as he is a Belgium draft horse. The horses are now resting for the winter, but we will be working on a way to get our horse car running next year.

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b. They regularly run a hand car for visitors, but their's is narrow gauge.

However, the idea of allowing the public to operate one "sparked an old flame" in us. We'll be pursuing this as a possible new project.

The building of our friendship with Rio Vista and the start of a new one with Ardenwood made the conference extremely worthwhile. Jack Young and Ken Middlebrook from the 2479 team also attended the Conference.



**Car 129**

**Transfer Table**







**Tired Old Cable Car**



**Tired Old Cable Car on Truck  
The Tail Light Guarantee.**

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## Trolley Barn "Annual Report" 2006

### VISITORS:

23112 (-5% YTY) Trolley riders  
11167 (+17% YTY) Barn Visitors  
99.8% Motormen & Host Coverage

### VOLUNTEERS:

28 work each month out of 35 active.  
637 Hours/month average  
5 new volunteers (3 on Muster Team Projects)

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Group doing VERY WELL after 3 full years of being run by volunteers
2. Gained two new "friends" -- Rio Vista and Ardenwood
3. Entry Area: Revamping of entry area completed. Significant improvement.
4. Car Disposal:
  - Milan Car (1943) scrapped 7 August.
  - Cable Car (23) Sold and re-sold. Removal date unknown
  - Melbourne Car (403) Sold. Removal date unknown
5. Participated in Antique Autos in History Park.
6. Attended ARM Conference

### PROJECTS:

Overhead electrification -- Design ready, needed parts list being compiled, installer identified (Stacy and Witbeck)

Trolley Air Compressor -- Serious "flashover" problem unresolved. Need to determine if wound correctly and/or return to Sparks Electric.

1905 Cadillac -- Completed 12/05. (SJFD Muster Team owner/sponsor)

Merryweather Steam Pumper -- Returned to SJFD Museum (SJFD Muster Team owner/sponsor). Cal OSHA permit required to operate.

1919 Rauch & Lang electric car -- Returned to Campbell Historical Museum (Owner/Sponsor) after 24 months and 1784 hours of volunteer work.

1924 Dodge Brothers Truck -- Close to completion. Mechanical repairs only. ( SJ Police Department owner/sponsor).

1923 American LaFrance Torpedo Fire Engine -- Work started April 2006. Being re-built for parade use. (SJFD Muster Team owner/sponsor).

### RELATIONS:

1. HSJ - Excellent

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- a. monthly steering committee meetings
- b. daily contact with Facilities Team
- c. help with HSJ events
  - (1) Archeology Family Day
  - (2) Antique Autos Family Day
  - (3) Historic Transportation Experience (education classes)
2. SJFD Muster Team - Excellent
3. VTA - Excellent
4. 2479 - Excellent
5. SF Muni (2 Divisions) - Excellent
6. Western Railway Museum -- Excellent, but just getting to know them

Compiled for the period 11/01/05 to 10/31/06

Robert L. Schneider/11-16-06