

THE DESERT WIND

Volume 10, Issue 4

A Publication of the Joshua Tree and Southern Railroad Museum

Fall 2006

Fall Meet 2006 Coming Up.

November 10th-12th...Veterans Day Weekend



Roger Stabler welding on the 15" gauge bridge.



Tom and Rudy out for a run in 2004.



Jack Sessums displays one of his movie props.



Rudy van Wingen on his pride and joy, the #13.



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Join us for the Fall Meet as we celebrate the contributions of two individuals who helped make the Joshua Tree and Southern Railroad Museum the unique and enjoyable place it is today. One the morning of Saturday, November 11th, we will formally dedicate the 7 1/2" gauge car barn to Rudy van Wingen, who was a long-time driving force as well as Vice President and Director at the JT&S. Later that afternoon we will have a ceremony naming the newly constructed 15" gauge bridge in memory of our friend and fellow JT&S member Jack Sessums. Plan on attending both events as we remember Jack and Rudy's contributions and good times shared. ☼

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Time to Make Camping Reservations!

Email Tom Arnold at:
tomamailbox-jts@yahoo.com
or leave a message at:
(760) 366-8503
Don't wait!

JT&S President's Message for October 2006.

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We hope to see you all at this year's Fall Meet. This will be a special event since on Saturday, November 11th we are dedicating the car barn to Rudy Van Wingen and the Grand Scale Bridge to Jack Sessum's. The Grand Scale crew is working hard to finish the track so we can run Jack's Shay across as part of the ceremony. The time for both events will be announced Saturday morning.

In addition, you will be able to experience the newly built wye and bridge at the station. More work will be performed before it is completely finished but we are turning trains again. Come on out and give it a try.

This year we wanted to make the fundraising dinner on Saturday night more accessible so Rita Allan has volunteered to cook a family style BBQ dinner. It will be less expensive and more casual than our dinners in the diner. You can still eat in the diner if you want but don't miss this opportunity to enjoy a great meal and help JT&S at the same time. Go to our website at www.jtsrr.org for more info.

After experiencing an accidental vegetation fire this summer we are developing a more formalized fire prevention and preparedness plan. One thing we learned is that we need a lot more round nose shovels than we have. We are asking every member to bring a round nose shovel with them whenever they come to the Museum. You can leave it in your vehicle during your visit so it will be available if we need it. Please add this item to your checklist when you're packing so you'll remember to bring it along. Other fire fighting tools will need to be on site so if you have any water extinguishers, hoses or other tools you don't need anymore, please donate them so we can reduce our expenses for this project.

We're looking forward to another great season at JT&S. See you all on November 11th if not before.

Visit our online gift shop at:

www.cafepress.com/jtsdiningcar

Grand Scale Division Report.

Another Fall Meet is upon us, but what will make this one different is actual operation on the Grand Scale Division for the first time in decades.

Saturday afternoon, November 11th, 2006 will be a day we will remember for many years to come. The bridge that we have been laboring on for the past few years will at last be run across for the first time. We are honored to host the Sessums Family who will be bringing the Live Oak Canyon Railroad Shay, which will be the first locomotive across the span. The span will be christened the "Jack's Gap Bridge" in memory of our friend and mentor Jack Sessums. Refreshments will follow. Please plan on attending this event, times will be posted on Saturday morning.

Our Shay number 6 operated almost continuously during the Fall Train Meet at the Hillcrest & Wahtoke Railway in Reedley, California on October 14th. Joshua Tree members in attendance included Ken Eells, Brendon Hilton (our newest GSD member), Ray Bjerrum, the Gaszi Family, Ken Kukuk, Greg and Brian Ratliff, and Yours Truly. Everyone got a turn at the throttle of the Shay, and with 6 steam locomotives in operation the whole experience was not unlike running on a busy mainline railroad. Thanks to Hillcrest hosts Sean and Mellissa Bautista who provided a delicious dinner Saturday night, and always make us feel welcome. Hillcrest has been storing our locomotive for us until we are ready to bring it home to the desert, and for this we are also grateful.

Welcome to Brendon Hilton, our newest 15" gauge member! Brendon brings with him considerable skill in fabrication and railroad operation. He has recently been working on switchstand parts for the GSD, and the quality of his work is excellent. Brendon is erecting a 15" gauge 2-6-0, and has his chassis mostly complete. We are happy to have Brendon on board.

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- Board of Directors and Officers for 2006 -
Tom Arnold - President, Director
Paul Lavacot - Vice President, Director
Chris Allan - Treasurer, Director
Cherie Palmer - Secretary
Allan Ratliff - Director
Bill Shepherd - Director



Calendar of Events

•Workday Schedule:

October 28, 2006

December 9, 2006

January 13, 2007

•Fall Meet Spectacular:

November 10-12, 2006

*email Rita for Saturday Dinner info -
troop138@earthlink.net*

Email tomamailbox-jts@yahoo.com for more info and member camping reservations.

GSD Report ...from page 2

Bill Shepherd will return for another Roundhouse work week prior to the Meet, and will be joined by Rick Mugele who will be finishing up some details on the Bridge. Anyone interested in coming out during that week is welcome. Call me at (562) 809-7455 or email me at wslfco@earthlink.net.

Operation on the Grand Scale Division have been a long time in coming. Thank you to everyone who has stuck with the project, our first hurdle is about to be crossed. A new era is in front of us, as well as new and exciting challenges.

As always, I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Meet. Please continue to check the website for updates and photos of the build. Have a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!

-Chris Allan, GSD Coordinator ☼

Logon at www.jtsrr.org for all the latest!



Ken Kukuk on Shay 6 spreading ballast at Hillcrest.