

Museum Organization

Several members have asked me to briefly explain how the Museum is organized and who owns the property. Here is the short version:

The Joshua Tree & Southern Railroad Museum is a State of California tax deductible non-profit corporation. The Museum is tax exempt under IRS section 501(c)(3). It is managed by a 5 member board of directors that are elected by the regular members. Annual members achieve regular member status when selected by the board of directors for their extraordinary contributions to the organization.

The assets of the Museum, such as the property, buildings, equipment and supplies, are owned solely by the Museum. The Museum is its own entity and no individual has ownership of Museum property or profits from its assets.

The Museum sits on more than 300 acres of land. The land is currently owned by the Joshua Highlands Club which is a general partnership. The Museum owns a 75% undivided share of the Joshua Highlands Club and the heirs of Chuck Barnes own the other 25%. The Museum is in the process of

purchasing the Barnes 25%. When that is complete, the deed will be transferred to the Museum and the Joshua Highlands Club partnership will be dissolved.

I hope this helps. If you want more information, please feel free to call me.

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Roger Colton photo.



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Shay 6 Returns to Steam!



Ken Kukuk shows off his handywork on May 1st, 2005. This first steamup took place at his West LA home.

In May of this year our Shay locomotive Number 6 emerged from the Westside Locomotive Works Shops after nearly two years of reconstructive surgery. Ken Kukuk, owner of the WLW worked diligently to achieve this goal, we certainly owe him a great debt of gratitude. Nearly every part on the locomotive was refurbished, and in some cases replaced. The

shopping began with new, smaller 10" diameter cast steel drivers, replacement gears and pinions, (donated by Gary Smith of Danville, CA.) and continued with a new wood cab, domes, air tank, bell, as well as signature West Side Works headlights and spot plate. After a successful test run in Kens driveway on rails made from 2x4's, the engine travelled to Hillcrest Shops for short-term storage until suitable rat-proof accommodations can be built back in Joshua Tree. The #6 performed well in steam trials at Hillcrest, steaming well, as well as demonstrating exceptional pulling power, even with it's new 2:1 gear ratio. The engine will be featured during the **Grand Scale Convention** at Hillcrest Shops in Reedley, CA., September 30- October 2, 2005. There it will serve as our ambassador to the JT&S and hopefully bring us a few new memberships. For more Convention info call 800-564-1066. ed.☀

Inside This Issue

- 1 Shay 6 Steams!
- 2 Property Purchase.
- 2 GSD Update.
- 3 Calendar of Events
- 3 President's Report.
- 4 Museum Organization Info.

Property Purchase Nears.

Ever closer to our goal...

-From Tom Arnold

JT&S is closer to owning the remaining 25% share of our property. As you may know, the Museum owns a 75% undivided share of the property. The heirs of Chuck Barnes own the remaining 25% and have agreed to sell it to the Museum for a fair price. Our attorneys are working out the details of the purchase agreement and we hope to complete the transaction soon. We are nearly finished with our fundraising efforts. Thanks to some very generous donations we are within reach of our goal. If you were meaning to make a contribution but haven't done so yet, now would be the time. It doesn't matter how much because every bit will help.

Two of our members who wish to remain anonymous have pledged to make a \$5,000 donation once we collect \$10,000. We are close to that mark so please get your contributions in the mail. We want to be ready with the funds when the documents are ready to sign.

Owning 100% of our property is a luxury that most organizations do not have. It will provide a great deal of security for our future. We plan on being here for many years so your children and their children can enjoy this place the way you have. Thanks to all of those who have contributed and those of you who will. ☀

Property Fund Donors As of July 2005.

*Herb and Freida Baker
Tom Arnold and Kathy Ladd
Ronald and Lila Schmidt
Peter and Jacki Moseley
The Allan Family
Bill and Mary Shepard
Allan and Lynn Ratliff
Ken and Linda Johnson
Ron Hirschberg
Mark Josephs and Eileen Brown
Dick Miller
Ken and Elizabeth Burns
Terry Watson
Lucille Peoples
Robert, Kim & Linda Beard
Russell and Marji Patterson
Wm. Robert and Doris Fletcher
Roger Gash
Kevin and Mageeda Doe
Hollis Ladd*

Thank you to one and all!

Grand Scale Division Report

Progress continues...

Of course the big news for this report is the rebuild of Shay #6, or as it has been referred to in honor of its builder, the "Coffey Shay". Despite my heavy work load at the beginning of the year during the restoration of the Disneyland #5, a great deal has been accomplished on other fronts. A busy workday at Boschan Boiler in Carson gave us the opportunity to weld the turntable bridge sections together as well as add strap steel braces to the interior of the tube steel substructure. This workday was attended by Ken Eells, Tom Arnold, John Zitrick, capable welder Kevin Kane, and myself. The side plates and the mostly "decorative" angle and T-bar have been tacked on and await the application of fake rivets. Thanks go to Paul Boschan for his patience while we fabricated this 20+foot long structure at his facility. Brett Minor has since trailered it up to the Property. Placement should take place in the Fall. The center post and bearing housing still need fabrication, but the hard part is behind us.



Tom Arnold and John Zitrick test the Turntable frame.

Progress on the Jack's Gap Bridge has been slow, however I am hoping to host a week-long work party to get it "in the air" sometime this Fall. If you are interested in helping out please contact me. As always starting in September, workdays are set for the 2nd Saturday of each month. Call me at (562) 809-7455 or email me at wsflco@earthlink.net for more info. -Chris Allan, GSD Coordinator



Calendar of Events

•Work Day Schedule:

September 10, 2005

October 8, 2005

November 12, 2005

December 10, 2005

January 14, 2006

February 11, 2006

March 11, 2006

April 8, 2006

May 13, 2006

•Fall Meet Spectacular:

November 11-13, 2005

•Run Weekend:

February 18-20, 2006

•Narrow Gauge Meet:

March 24-26, 2006

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

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

JT&S President's Message

- For July 2005

The past season was a very productive one at JT&S. Thanks to Bill Shepherd we saw the completion of the car barn. His dedication and extraordinary skills resulted in an absolutely beautiful structure. Just in time I might add as it is nearly full of equipment. Others deserve much praise for the venture as well. Greg, Brian & Al Ratliff built and installed the elevated center track and very solid steel doors. Paul Lavacot built the ground track and assisted in the building construction. My apologies to anyone I may have neglected to mention but you get the idea. It was a spectacular team effort.

The grand scale group has been busy laying track and getting the turntable support in place. The turntable is nearly complete and will be transported to the site soon. The bridge across the wash is ready to be put in place so plan to see some running on the 15" track this year. The first engine you'll see will be the Museum's beautifully restored Shay engine. After many months of hard work, Ken Kukuk completed his wonderful work on our neglected shay and you won't believe your eyes.

Next season brings many exciting projects and activities. Bill Shepherd will arrive in the fall to continue the work on the engine house. Greg Ratliff and family will continue the progress on the highline and engine house. Paul Lavacot is leading the charge on rebuilding the wye and new road crossings at the station. Chris Allan and team plan to cross the wash, complete the loop and install the turntable.

The campground continues to receive beautification treatments from Al Ratliff, Kevin and Liza Kane, and others. The cement rubble has been moved into the wash after all these years so you'll notice a big difference on your next visit.

This season we plan to post our schedule sooner and with more details so you can get coordinated early on. In addition to the fall meet and spring narrow gauge meet, we will participate in the Train Mountain Ramble in June. If you didn't make this last year you missed a great time and some very interesting people and equipment.

There will be many reasons to spend time at JT&S this year so put some dates in your calendar. We'll look forward to seeing you there. ☀

-Tom Arnold

