

Owens Valley Railway Company Newsletter

Volume II No. 3

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

It's that time of year again. Annual dues are due right now. Many of you have already paid your dues for July 2002-June 2003, those of you that have, can ignore this paragraph. If you have not paid your dues for this next year, a renewal application is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill it out and return it promptly to the OVRCO with your check

ANNUAL MEETING HELD

As required by our corporate by-laws, our annual meeting was held on September 12, 2002, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at The Pizza Factory in Bishop. With several local members in attendance, we counted the ballots for election of directors, conducted the raffle drawing, and were brought up to date on the status of our T.E.A. grant application.

ELECTION OF FOUR DIRECTORS

At our last Board of Directors meeting, the board voted to increase the size of the Board to 9 members, the maximum allowed by our present by-laws. One important item on the agenda for the Annual Meeting was the election of four directors. Directors Jerry Core and Jim Saylor's terms of office ended, and they ran for re-election. Bob Tomko and Shirley Fendon ran for the new seats. Bob operates the Carlson Wagon-Lit Travel Agency in Bishop, and has been extremely helpful with publicity and acting as a liaison with the local government agencies. Shirley operates, with her husband Jerry, Fendon's Furniture Store in Bishop, and has been a tireless fundraiser. The last newsletter had a mail-in ballot enclosed so all members could vote and mail in their ballots. The results of the election were tallied and announced at the General Meeting. Both the incumbents were reelected, and although there were some write-in votes, the two announced candidates tallied enough votes to win the new seats. Congratulations to Shirley and Bob! We are looking forward to having your skills and talents on the Board of Directors.

RAFFLE!!

The drawing for the raffle prizes was held at the General Meeting. Don Monson of Mammoth Lakes won the Grand Prize, two days and one night on the Grand Canyon Railway donated by Steve Hinrichs of State Farm Insurance. Dan Wells of Bishop won the watercolor picture of S.P. narrow gauge Engine #18 by local artist Jeffrey Scott. Denise Hayden of Bishop won \$200 in labor towards any upholster job, donated by Fendon's

Furniture. Paul Bermudez of Simi Valley won \$200 toward any furniture refinishing, also donated by Fendon's. Dave Storey of Bishop won the two bottles of wine donated by Inyo-Mono Title Company. Congratulations to all the winners! A big thanks you to all of you that purchased the 350 tickets and helped our cause.

BRILL CAR RESTORATION

Restoration work on Death Valley Railroad Car #5 is progressing along nicely. We are reassembling parts of the car, and have the new roof approximately 1/2 done. For a look at the progress, if you have access to the Internet, take a look at http://www.ttr.org/dv_text/dv_n05-1.html for a photo tour of our progress. Or better yet, come out to the Train Barn and see for yourselves. This may be a good time to acknowledge some of the people and organizations that have, or are, contributing to the restoration project: Bishop Radiator for the great job of rebuilding the radiator for the engine; Stainless Steel Creations for fabricating the new step frames and the new brake turnbuckles, (and Mary for the great welding on the car); John Cole from Orange Empire RR Museum who is rebuilding the air compressor: Jerry Lawrence, who makes custom windows, is making all new wood window frames for the car: and of course all the volunteers who come out and work on the project.

RAILWAY RESTORATION

You regular readers know we have been striving to obtain Grant Funding to aid in financing a tourist railroad from Laws toward Bishop. Jerry Core, Jon Anderson, and Bob Tomko have been actively pursuing the possibility of grant funding for laying some rail toward our goal of running a rail line to Bishop. They have found that we may qualify for available federal grant funds under the Transportation Enhancement Act (T.E.A.) for the first phase, as a restoration project and extension of the Laws R.R. Museum. We have received unofficial assurances from CALTRANS that our proposal for the first phase appears to be eligible for approval. If so, we would be funded to lay track to the Owens River to the west of the Laws R.R. Museum, reconstruct the old S.P. bridge, and cross it with rail, restore approximately 1-1/2 miles of the old Owens River Valley Electric Railway line grade, and reconstruct approximately 1000 feet of track on the present museum grounds. We worked with Inyo County staff in drafting the application, and it went before the Board of Supervisors on August 20 and was approved. The application was also approved by the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission, and was sent on Sept 23 to CALTRANS in Sacramento for final approval of the \$646000 request. If all goes well we could be laying track within a year!

Rusty Rails