

# Owens Valley Railway Company Newsletter

Volume III No. 1 June 2003

## 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 2003-June 2004, 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

As required by our corporate by-laws, our annual meeting will be held September 15, 2003, from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at The Pizza Factory in Bishop. All members whose dues are current are invited to attend the meeting and participate in the company business to be conducted at that meeting. We are hoping for a large turnout of members interested in the preservation of our railroad heritage.

## ELECTION OF THREE DIRECTORS

One important item on the agenda for the Annual Meeting is the election of three Directors. Directors Jim Morrow and Jim Pitman's terms of office are expiring and there is one vacancy on the Board due to the resignation of Bob Bell. If any of you wish to be on the Board of Directors or wish to nominate an interested person, please contact President Jerry Core at Inyo-Mono Title Company at (760) 872-4741 and submit your names. The next newsletter will have a mail-in ballot enclosed so all members can vote and mail in their ballots. The results of the election will be tallied and announced at the General Meeting.

## RAFFLE!!

We are again holding a raffle as a fund raising project. We still are in need of funds to finance the purchase of track laying materials that are not included in any grant funds we have been able to acquire. This year our Grand prize is a Season Pass at June Mountain Ski Resort, a \$500 value. Tickets may be purchased at the Labor Day Booth or by contacting any of the officers

## BRILL CAR RESTORATION

Restoration work on Death Valley Railroad Car #5 is progressing along nicely. From the spring of 2000 until fall of 2001, the motorcar was disassembled and cleaned down to the framework. The framework was then painted with primer and new sheet metal side panels were cut and riveted back onto the car. The riveting process took some time, as none of the volunteers had ever done hot

## BRILL CAR RESTORATION (continued)

riveting. We learned fast and 1000s of rivets were reset into the panels. After riveting, the exterior of the car was deemed stable enough to move the trucks from beneath the car for cleaning and reconditioning.



The trucks took many months of hard work to remove all the rust, corrosion and dirt, which were firmly caked to every nook and cranny. The brake levers and linkages were removed and stripped to bare metal to enable them to move freely so the brake shoes can be pressed against the wheels. The trucks are now completely restored, in working order, and re-installed under the car, as is almost all of the brake linkage system. At present we are re-installing the air system that operates the brakes.

A new wood roof has been constructed and is awaiting its canvas covering. Finding the proper 1927-type material to cover the wood roof has become a new challenge. The new oak floor is in, and will allow some of the support pieces of the undercarriage to be attached through the floorboards.

Over the next few months, the car will continue to take shape, and everyone will see what the motorcar looked like when it was new. The exterior will be repainted the original green (as close as we can make it), and the lettering and numbers will be replaced as shown in the factory pictures.



Rusty Rails

## **MULE DAYS BOOTH**

The O.V.R.C. set up and staffed a small informational booth at the Crafts Show held in the Bishop City Park during Mule Days over the Memorial Weekend. Several hundred people visited the booth to learn about the tourist railroad and hear the progress on the restoration of the Brill Car. We added several new members, sold several merchandise items, and raffle tickets. Altogether we raised almost \$900 for the O.V.R.C. projects. We now have 150 members in the O.V.R.C. Eight different members staffed the booth for the long weekend, including three people for the first time, Gloria Leesen, John Martindale, and Noe Gadea. We plan on having another booth set up during the Tri-County Fair over Labor Day Weekend.

## **RAILWAY RESTORATION NEWS**

As reported in our last Newsletter, our application for grant funding for partial rail route work was approved and accepted by all political entities involved. We have received word from Inyo County (the lead agency in this project) that they are going out for bids for a contractor to perform the environmental studies required for this project. So we are moving ahead! Due to some unforeseen delays, the

**RAILWAY RESTORATION NEWS** (continued)  
environmental work may not be completed until next year, but then the Brill Car restoration may not be completed until next also, although we expect to have it running under its own power before the end of this year. So, in spite of some small delays the project is still “on track”

## **GOOD OLD DAYS**

The annual Good Old Days celebration will be held at the Laws Museum on July 28. Plan on coming out and spend an afternoon of old fashioned fun, frivolity, and food. Also take some time to come visit the Train Barn and see first hand the progress on the Brill Car restoration.

## **FINAL REMINDER**

Finally, remember that dues are due, and to send in your nominations for Board of Directors!

